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To



The BOOKSELLER to the READER.

Courteous Reader,

THou art here presented with a
Novell Banquet, which in the
pleasantness and Variety of the Subject,
and the several Comical and sur-
prizing Circumstances, I am confident
will be no less Grateful to Thee than
I intend it. I must confess, the Cri-
tical Palats of the Age have been too
much Nauseated with lean and jejune
Discourses of this Nature, especially
when the Regalia has been prepared
by unskilful Hands; But this being
both the Business and Diversion of a
Person eminent at Court for Wit and
Parts; I dare Promise Thee the
Polynant Relish, which will not
but satisfie the most Curious or

To the Reader:

severest Judge. These ensuing Histories were writ by a Worthy and Learned Pen, at the Request of some Gentlemen and Ladies, and now Publish'd from his own Manuscript, that the more Ingenious Part of the World may share in that Recreation, which was at first design'd for the private Entertainment of some Persons of Honour. The Stories are here told under feigned Names, that we might preserve that Respect and Reverence due to their Title and Grandeur.

But I shall no farther inhance thy Expectation of the following Treatise; An Invitation is Civil and Modish, and so far I only offer it, though I do Question but every Guest will meet with a Dish will give him some obliging Gusto.



THE INTRODUCTION

THe Noble Melintus, whose Arms abroad had been no less successful than his Amours at Court, the one Rendering his Name equally terrible to his Foes, as the other did his Person, Lovely to those Beauteous Ladies his Generous Addresses had Acquainted him with ; On a sudden forsook the Court, and Sigh'd away his bitter Hours in a Solitary Retirement. When the News was Spread, the Noble Melintus was withdrawn, it Rais'd a Wonder in all ; His own Merits having Gain'd him more then Ordinary favour from his Prince, and his Courtly presence, and obliging Mien Won a respect from all that knew him. The Count his Uncle more particularly Enquired the Reason of his present discontent, from whom at length with much difficulty, he Forced a discovery

A 3

covery. I must, my Lord, (*says Melintus*)
 Bless that Happy Minute when first I
 saw the Matchless *Corinna*, and Curse the
 Severity of my Stars whose kinder
 Influence ought to have given Her more
 constancy, or me less concern, for that
 Loss, I now but in vain Lament, 'Shee's
 gone ! My Lord, Shee's lost to Me for
 ever ! My hated Rival now Surfeits
 with delights in those Curling Armes I
 once thought mine ; Every kiss he takes
 is a Blessing stoln from Me, nor has He
 Honour enough to pity, but Scorns,
 laughs at my Miseries, and with the Me-
 mory of my sufferings, whets his Cloy'd
 Appetite to fresh Enjoyments, Melintus
 would have proceeded, but the Count having
 now the true Cause of his Melancholy, chose
 rather to divert his Passion then Encourage
 it by a further discourse upon the same Un-
 happy Subject ; And like a subtle Rhetori-
 tian with undiscerned Charms, led his
 heedless Auditor wide from his present
 Theme of Sorrow, to a more soft and Comi-
 cal

cal Entertainment : And when he took leave promis'd to send Geronto, his old witty Companion, and some others of his Friends, both Gentlemen and Ladies, the next Afternoon to Visit him ; Whose facetious Humours, and pleasant Conversation would divert his Melanchely, and prove the most powerful Cordial to recover a despairing Lover. Accordingly the next day, Geronto, Lylander, Florimel and Aurelia, went over to Barn-Elms, where Melintus had for some days past Conceal'd himself, that he might more luxuriously Indulge his discontented thoughts free from the Trouble of Ceremonious Visitants. No sooner had they saluted Melintus, whose Cloudy Forehead spoke the present Anguish of his Soul ; But in came Parmenio and Philotas, each leading his Mistress, the fair Evadne and Beautifull Theodosia. Melintus was not a little Surpris'd to see his Friends Crowd in so fast upon him, when Geronto (their Mutual Civilities being past) began to Rally Melintus with such sharp Excursions as his great

(4)

great Wit had alwayes priviledg'd him to
at Court, and his Intimate acquaintance
might now more freely Challenge from his
Friend, the little bickerings with Repartees
being over, in which the Ladies, especially
Florimel, lost no advantage, they fell upon
more Compos'd Discourses, and as nothing
could be more agreeable to the Company, nor
any Subject more proper then that of Love,
Geronto whose Talent was great that way,
first broke the Ice, and began with this
Harangue,

Novel

NOVEL the First.

By GERONTO.

A Gentleman, younger Brother of a very good Family in the West of *England*, having had the advantage of a Liberal Education at the University of *Cambridge*, left those happy Walls, esteeming that sort of Collegiate Imprisonment too narrow for his more aspiring and ambitious Thoughts, which now began to feel the heats of Love, and Warmer desires of attaining that pitch of Honour and Reputation his Ancestors had Arrived to. Having thus taken leave of his Studies, he return'd into the Countrey to receive the plentiful provision his Father had by Will assigned him, which amounted to 4000 li. on which foundation (tho' Inconsiderable to what his elder Brother enjoy'd) he doubted not to raise as Substantial a fortune by his Industrious Improvement as his Birth-right had deny'd him: With this Intention, knowing the Barren Soyl of a Countrey

B Life,

Life, was not so fit to accomplish his designs as the more fruitful employments that attende d a Court and City, he repaired to *London*: But bringing with him a Temper too Generous to Flatter, and too Gentile to Cozen, he quickly found without the first he must expect no preferment at Court, and wanting the Second it was Impossible to advantage himself amidst a Crowd, whose only patrimony was their craft. In the midst of these Thoughts he had often resolv'd to return to the more innocent diversions of the Countrey; But finding himself intangled in his Affairs, and engaged in the acquaintance of the Town Gallants, who at first had insensibly wrought him into their Society, by those Nets and Subtletys they Spread to catch the heedless and Unwary; And being softned by the charms and allurements of the fairer Sex, to whose Visits he was every day enticed, he found it impossible to discharge himself of these Inconveniencies, tho' he had before his Eyes the most dismal prospect of misery, and inevitable Ruine of his Fortunes which now began to consume apace, and in three years time the whole Treasure was quite Exhausted. His Companions who had so often been reliev'd by his Generous kindness were so far from pitying or Assisting him in these distresses, that like the Summer Birds,

Birds, they left his Winter'd Quarters to seek a Spring in some warmer Climate, without the least Gratitude or kind remembrance of those Lavish kindnesſes with which they had been ſo often reſreth'd ? In this Condition, Repentance, the uſual Comerade of diſtreſs, preſented her wrinkled Face to the poor undone Youth, and brought into his Thoughts his former miſcarriages, but with all left him deſtitute of any obliging Clue to Extricate himſelf from the Labyrinth his follies and Miſfortunes had Inſnar'd him in. How ready he then was to curſe the Influence of thoſe Starrs that frown'd at his Birth, and Raiſ'd in his own Breſt an Enemy againſt himſelf; To blame his paſt Improvidence, and all the Obliquities of his former Conduct ; They can beſt Judge who have ſeen and known how few Friends adverſity affords, and how the pleaſures of former proſperity are the bitter-eſt Ingredients of preſent Calamity.

In this deplorable Eſtate after that by renew'd ſollicitations he had wearied all his Friends, Poverty began to grow Shamefull, his wonted Embroideryes were now worn into Rags, the Treats and Regalios' with which he had tired out the day, and Stole from the Hours of Reſt to Solace himſelf with, now Tantaliz'd his preſent Hunger ; His Beds of Down and ſofter

Companions of Nightly Amours, were now no
 more, a Numerous concourse of Dunns with
 their Loud Alarms broke his Rest, and like
 Hornets with their Stinging Demands, perpetu-
 ally tormented him, and he who but a little be-
 fore was the Court and admiration of every
 Flattering Sycophant, is now their Scorn and
 Laughter. Instead of his Livery'd Attendants,
 the Staff Officers watch his Steps, and nothing
 but the infamy of a Prison and the Gripes of
 penury, are the thoughts with which he En-
 tertain himself; So that being forc'd to the
 utmost Extremity, he resolv'd rather with the
 Prodigal, to return to his Fathers House, than
 feed upon Husks amongst the *London Swine*;
 To which End, having Rais'd as much Money
 as the remains of his Moveables would pledge
 for, he began his Journey for the West, hoping
 his Friends would Commiserate his indigent
 Condition, however one Blessing he was sure
 of, to be out of the Noise and Clamour of his
 Ravenous Creditours. His Money being short
 he was forc'd to Travel on Foot, nor had he
 hopes it could carry him to his Journey End,
 but resolving to trust his better fortune he set
 forward; And having Travelled three dayes
 saw the last penny disposed of. The Evening
 now drew on apace, and he found himself Ex-
 tremely,

tremly wearied, no prospect of a Town to
 lodge at, or Money to pay for't, or other ne-
 cessaries he had occasion for, going heavily on
 under so great a load of trouble and discontent,
 and pondering with himself, if it was altogether
 impossible for the wit of Man to find out a Re-
 medy for these present Evils, lifting up his eyes,
 at a distance espied a Countrey Village half a
 Mile before him, which as soon as he had over-
 taken, he sat down under a Hedge which be-
 long'd to a Neighbouring House, to consider
 what course to take to relieve his present want:
 Upon this Hedge there were several pieces of
 Linnen hung out to dry, and tho' it was now
 late in the Evening, yet such was their Security
 and so great the Honesty of these Countrey
 Hobs, that they fear'd no filching hand to
 Thieve them away; the full Moon which with
 her Silver Beams supplyed the Brightness of the
 Golden day, discover'd the Temptation to him,
 nor could he observe any Person near to Guard
 the Hedge: But being never us'd to Steal, he
 was very loth to begin now, nor was he less
 Averse to Beg; But urg'd by his extremities
 he was about to bear away some of the Linnen,
 when putting his Hand into his Pocket he found
 a pair of Dice; Are you here still? Said he,
 here still? To torment, but not assist Me! Oh

base and bewitching Tools, the Wisemans scorn
 Charms to the fool, and Panders to the Knave!
 here still; To refresh my Memory how you
 Ruin'd and deceiv'd Me! I have heard amongst
 your friends you have been Stil'd, the substance
 of hope, the miserable Mans last relief, and is it
 possible to find one fitter to receive your favors
 then my self; Assist me then, and Empire be-
 tween my necessity and Honesty, whilst I pursue
 my Intentions to play fairly with this Hedge for
 the Linnen it is Cloathed with, and less needs
 then my distressed Shoulders, which want a
 Covering. Yet am I resolved, if you cross my
 hopes, I will yet be Just to my Losses and pay
 what you decree against me, and if you strip me
 I shall then forswear your Assistance for the
 Future, and trust my self Naked to the Charity
 of well disposed Christians, from whom I will
 hope for that good fortune and Reasonable re-
 lief which you deny me,

Come then and lets try the Chances; Here
 Mr. Hedge, my Hat against that shirt: 7 is the
 Main, have at it; 12, Pox ont', out at the first
 Throw! There't goes again, my Coat aga inst
 those two Handkerchiefs and four Aprons, 6 is
 the Main, now 12 good Dice, or I'm undone,
 ha! 5 to 6, I've the worst on't, but away, now
Cater Ace, Tra Duce, what are you? Cater
Duce,

Duce, the Devils in the Dice, then I must strip, Curse on ill Luck ! But ne're be faint hearted, come, nay Breeches you must go to, 9 is the main, have at it : what now, Duce Ace ? The Devil take all ill Luck, well, heres stockings and Shooes yet, whats there 8 ? Now good sweet Honey. Dice be kind, Pox on't, (4) to 8, its two to one against me humph ! Sixe Duce, Iv'e lost it, there's no hopes, Ruine is my portion, well I have nothing left now but my Shirt, and so farewell all ; Here the Dice began to Repent, and the Spark won back his Clothes, and as much Linnen from the Hedge as was necessary to supply his present Occasions, nor was he covetous of more, which he Pack'd up into a Bundle and Trudg'd forward thanking his Stars for his good Success. But not many paces was he gone before he was pursu'd by the Owner, (who standing undiscover'd behind a Tree was an Eye witness of this strange Adventure,) and easily overtaken, by whom being question'd about the Linnen, he no wayes Endeavour'd to Conceal, but Justified himself in the Fact, telling him he came honestly by them, and would keep them, and make good his Title before any Magistrate in England. Enrag'd with this Answer, the Countryman with Loud Out-cries rail'd the Neighbourhood, who pass'd their Censure

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sure and with words and blows both threatned and punished him: In so much that he was forc'd to desire a Truce and entreat a hearing, but had he spoke loud as the Northwind the Women would have Silenc'd him; O Rogue, says One, I'm glad we have found you, now I know how my Peuntrey went, which I charg'd on the more innocent Fox, 'tis you Sirrah had them, and you shall pay for them. Well said, Neighbour, says another, let's make an example of him, this is the Rascal, I believe, came abegging t'other day, and whilst I was gathering sticks Stole the Beef out of my Pot, and had like to have Ravish'd my Daughter. Hang him: Hang him, Thief: Scolds the Chorus. He endeavour'd to lay this Storm by mild excuses, telling them he was a Gentleman and ought to Answer what he had done before a Magistrate, all which did but the more incense the Rabble, who had certainly torn him in pieces, had not a Farmers Daughter, taken with his Shape and port, perswaded her Sweet heart Richard to use his Oratory for the Gentlemans safety, which he not at all Curious in, did it to this effect.

Fy, Neighbours, I think the Devil's in you, won't you bear a man speak, let Me tell you, it doth not become us to be Executioners to a Thief.

Thief, that's the Hangmans Work. If he has been a Rogue let the Jaylor have him, and the Rope Throttle him, but why should our Hands save them a labour, our Landlord's a Wise Man and a Justice, let's carry him thither, and I warrant you Mr. George his Clerk will quickly take Care to send him where he best deserves.

Away with him, Away with him reply'd the rest, which was no Unawelcome News to *Honorius*, (for so let us henceforth call the Unfortunate Youth) hoping he should find a Gentleman of those Generous Sentiments, who upon the Relation of all Circumstances would Commiserate his Condition and assist his necessities, they carried him to the House of a very Worthy Gentleman, to whom they represented the Crime with all the complaints and aggravations their Country Rhetorique could advance, entreating his Worship to make a publick example of so Notorious an Offender. To which Accusation, the Justice demanded of *Honorius* what he had to say for himself; Who Replied,

I shall not Worthy Sir, go about to deny or Evade what I am Charged with, as to the taking away the Goods my Accusers Claim,
but

but as a Stranger and a Gentleman (however I appear under this disguise of habit) I humbly Entreat your Favour to hear me a few words in private, and I do not doubt but your Worship will then think me not so heinously Guilty as my Accusers would persuade you to.

The Port and demeanour of *Honorius*, together with the gracefulness of his Elocution, so far wrought upon the Justice as to dismiss the Crowd, Restoring to the party his Goods, and giving them his promises that he would take care of the Criminal.

No sooner were they departed, but *Honorius* proceeded to acquaint the Justice with his condition in every point, and how, urg'd to what he did by the force of irresistible Necessity, which he hop'd his goodness and Charity would rather pity, then punish with the Severity of Law. The Justice extreamly taken with the pleasantness of the Relation, told *Honorius* he was fall'n into such Hands as would not Injure him, rather Contribute to his Relief: But since, pursues he, you are Charg'd with a Crime of this Nature, think not but I will inflict a punishment on you, and as your Crime is Venial, your punishment shall not exceed it.

All

All that I require of you is that you lye in my House this Night, and take that Accommodations the same can afford you, as to my Table and Cellar, or what else you please to Command; Yet your Lodging must be in a Chamber which has been haunted for these three years past with the Apparition of a Ghost, and so frighted those who have seen it, that no Person yet was ever so hardy to speak to it. If on these Conditions you like to be my Guest, you shall find a hearty Wellcome and a supply to carry you to the place you determine. Honorius with a grateful acknowledgement receiv'd the offer, and humbly thank'd the Gentleman for his great favour to him, Telling him he was now doubly Oblig'd to his Misfortunes, as well that he had the Honour of knowing so Worthy a Person, as by this Adventure he might possibly make an Improvement in the Experimental part of Spectrisim, which in his younger years he had only Read at the University; These and other Compliments much pleas'd the Justice, who led him into the ParLOUR, where was his Wife and Daughter, a Person of incomparable Beauty and richly Furnish'd with all the Ornaments of Body and Mind, to whom after he had recounted how the Gentleman,

man had promised him to *l*ye in the Haunted Room, and speak to the Ghost if it did appear; He order'd his Servants to prepare Supper, and in the Interim call'd for Wine to entertain the stranger who thought himself extreamly happy; The time pass'd away in a very agreeable Conversation, and the Justice was not a little pleas'd with the Modest behaviour of *Honorius*, nor did the young Lady his Daughter less admire his person, the vivacity of his Wit and the quaintness of his discourse, which tho' she endeavor'd to hide, plainly appear'd in her kind and Obliging Glances, which *Honorius* soon perceiv'd, and had taken further Incouragement had not the meanness of his present appearance damp't his aspiring Thoughts. But to shorten the Relation, Supper was ended, and the Ladies withdrew to their Chambers, at such time as the old Gentleman conducted *Honorius* to an excellent Room well Furnished with all things convenient and Ornamental, telling him Jocosely. *That must be his Prison for this Night, and as many more as he Thought fit.* And wishing him good Night, Withdrew. The Compliment was returned by *Honorius* who was well provided with Fire and Candle, and Bottles of Wine, that the Devil might have the less power over him. Being now alone he had leasure to consider his present
 Cir.

Circumstances, when reflecting on the Beauty of the young Lady, and the kind looks she bestowed on him, he began to hope they might be the presages of his better fortune, which now seem'd once again to Smile upon him. With these Thoughts he went to Bed not much Concern'd with the apprehensions of what had been told him, yet not altogether slighting the danger he might be in, kept his Candle burning; and being ready to take the Sweets of Rest the Clock struck one, at which time the whole House was very quiet, and not the least Noise to disturb him.

Musing with himself about his present fortune, he thought he heard something Trip along the Gallery before his Chamber, whilst more regardfully attending he saw his Chamber door open, and in a Night dress he perceiv'd a Person as he thought enter and take two or three Rounds about the Room, and at length open a Closet door. This Apparition tho' it seem'd not so dismally frightful, yet struck him with a present horror, which whilst he was more seriously considering, came out of the Closet and took a Second walk in the Chamber, and by degrees came nearer and nearer to his Bed-side, which he diligently observing, his apprehensions of the danger grew stronger upon him, but taking

king courage was resolv'd to speak to it. With this intent looking stedfastly upon it, he thought he beheld the same face of the Young Lady he had seen but some few hours before, this abated his fears and Encourag'd his Resolution. Rising out of his Bed he approached it, which seem'd nothing Shy of his advance, and drawing nearer took it by the hand, which he found Soft and warm, and as true Flesh and Blood as his own, and more curiously viewing the Face saw it to be the real Person of the Young Lady, whose Body wak't whilst all her Senses were fast lockt up in the profoundest Sleep. His thoughts were now again at the same puzzle between his own desires and the Ladies Honour, as before they had been between his necessity and Honesty, but the Temptation prov'd too strong for the tender Virtue of Vigorous Youth to withstand. Leading her to his Bed-side he Softly laid her down and plac'd himself by her. But here should I recount the bold Trespas of his Hands, which found nothing of a Ghost about her, or the more daring attempts of his succeeding pleasures, my own Cheeks would blush at the Confidence of my Tongue; Nor is it possible to speak the Transports *Honorius* felt, I hope your kinder Imagination will supply the defects of my Expression. It is enough, that whilst *Honorius* was

Revelling

Revelling in the midst of that Garden of pleasure and stealing the forbidden fruit, the Lady Awoke. She had now been sensible of those delights from the ongoing Embraces of her New Bedfellow, and those kind Carresses her waking fancy had presented her with, which she had never found from the Cold Arms of her confident *Sylvia*; Whilst she lay thus considering what this strange Dream should be, or if a truth, what it meant; Her Senses being now more perfectly her own, she discover'd her self in another Bed, when hearing her Lovers excuses and the many pardons he beg'd, She was ready to swoon away at so strange a Surprizal, Oh Heavens! Says Shee, what hast thou done? Oh Ravisher base and Unworthy Guest; Are these thy acknowledgements of my Fathers kindness: With Charms and Philtres to bewitch my Innocency, hadst thou no more regard to my spotless honour then thus betray me to perpetual Shame and Ignominy; Dearest Madam, replied *Honorius*, if the Arraigned have leave to offer ought to arrest their Sentence, by the powers of Love, by all that's Sacred to you, Fly not from me before you hear my Defence. Think not, sweet Lady, that to Satisfie the rage of my burning lust or to Grasp such infinite happiness I would use unworthy means; 'Twas fortune gave you to me

Arm

Arms, and as well might the Sun disclose his Summer Beams, and the Earth refuse his Bounty, as I Shut my eyes against those glorious Beautyes, whose Charms fir'd my heart, and ravish'd all my Senses; I saw you, Madam, walking in your Sleep, I saw your Naked Beautyes, whose powers even Age it self tho' proud of its boasted abstinence could not resist; and may not youth be pardon'd? If not, Let loose your anger, wrinkle your brow into a Frown, and assure your self it shall be as mortal as the most venom'd or pointed weapon death it self makes use of to destroy the guilty; or if this punishment be too slow for your fleet Revenge, plunge a Dagger in my Breast, which I had rather feel then once hear the dismal sound of that single word, Farewel; Yours Madam, let me Live for ever, or sell this minute a welcome Sacrifice to your injur'd Fame, 'tis I, Madam, I confess it, that Violated your unspotted Innocence, pure as the Mountains Snow, & Chast as the Winters Ice, whom if your Mercy cannot pardon, let your Severest Justice Carve a satisfaction from this offending Breast. With these and many other the like expressions did the Amorous Youth sooth the disconsolate Lady, till at last, overcome with his Importunities, with Tears of Joy She embrac'd the gladdened Lover, and consented he Should live Live then, says she, and let the same bright win

ness of your Trespas and my dishonour, hear
 our Marriage Vows, and see this Sacred Ty-
 by which I am ever yours. — *Honorius* his best
 Expressions were now too poor to speak the
 Raptures of his Soul, nor certainly was ever
 Bridal Night pass'd over with greater pleasure
 and delight then this between the two Enamo-
 rists, in so much that the Shrill Messenger of
 the Morn had given Notice of its approach e're
 their thoughts stray'd from their Enjoyments:
 But being apprehensive of a discovery, which
 was not yet ripe for the Fathers Ear with apart-
 ing kifs they took leave of each other, the En-
 gaging *Honorius* to make some excuse to pro-
 long his stay, promis'd to return the next night
 to his Bed; which he receiv'd with all the Gra-
 titude he could express for so great a favour.
 The Lady was now gone to her own Chamber,
 and *Honorius* was at leisure to consider the
 present state of his affairs, how his Shatter'd
 fortunes were now repair'd, by an Extraordi-
 nary providence, beyond all hope or Expecta-
 tion. This Lady was the only Child of her
 Parents, and Heiress to a very considerable
 Estate, and as Valuable for her Vertue, Beauty
 and all other accomplishments that might Com-
 plete the Happiness of a Lover, as any of her Sex.
Whilst his thoughts were employ'd in these ra-

vishing Contemplations, his Senses began to
 tire, and he fell asleep at the same time when the
 Justice and his Lady came into his Chamber, to
 Enquire how he had pass'd the Night, hearing
 the door open he Awakened, and after he had
 feign'd himself 'discompof'd', he acquainted
 them it was a real truth the Room was haunt-
 ed, and that he had seen a Spirit, but he suppo-
 sed it e'same so far from Evil, that if ever An-
 gels left their Heavenly abodes to come upon
 Earth, such was this and no worse; for tho' he
 had seen and Convers'd with it, yet was he not
 in the least affrighted, nor did its discourse im-
 port any thing of harm to himself or the family.
 But what it had said he had been by Sacred Vow
 oblig'd not to discover, till such time as he had
 seen it again, for the too early Cock had Sum-
 mon'd it back to its unknown Mansions e're it
 had finish'd the Secret it came to discover. The
 gladd'd Justice embrac'd his Welcom Guest,
 and with the kindest words he could express
 himself, entreated his stay the following Night,
 & that he wou'd make him happy in his farther
 Acquaintance; Less powerful Oratory would
 have perswaded *Honorius* to accept of that he
 so much coveted; however thankfully returning
 the Justices Complements he soon after Rose,
 and Spent the day in the Conversation of his

New Friends. Nor was the Lad y ever from his thoughts, or her blushes from her Cheeks, whenever she Surpriz'd his Strolling Eyes, catching Glances from hers at a distance. In short, the Second Night came, and the long expected hour of Meeting brought our Lovers to each others Arms; the Happy Minutes fled fast in their Mutual Embraces, whilst the Lazy Intervalls were Spent in contrivance how they should Gain her Parents consent to finish their Vow'd Espousals. This the Lady undertook: It was now day break when *Emilia* retir'd to Her Chamber, and taking a convenient opportunity that Morning in private, discover'd to her Mother the whole Intrigue of her fortunes, and told her, it being usual with Her to repair to that Chamber in the day time to dress her self, and having often Spent her Hours in Reading in the Closet, being more particularly delighted with the prospect, she believ'd it had been Customary with Her for several years to walk this ther in her Sleep, tho' it was never known till this Lucky Stranger had made the discovery. Nor did she Conceal the Important truth with all the Naked Circumstances, then praising the Generous Education and Endearing Carriage of *Honorius* beg'd her Mother with all the Paraphetical Expressions of Love and tenderness, to

intercede with her Father on his behalf; which she at last promised. The old Gentleman was much Surpriz'd at this Relation and severely blam'd her unlawful Loves, but at the same time considering the Violence of his Daughters affection, and the Honour of his Family, consented to Her Wishes, and went with them to *Honorius* his Chamber, whom he Saluted his Son in Law, and soon after Ordered the Consummation of their Nuptials, which were Celebrated with all Imaginable Joy and Splendour. About a Month after, *Honorius* and his Lady in a Coach and six Horses went down to Visit his Relations, who all Congratulated his Happy fortunes, which were soon after increas'd to a very great Estate by the unexpected Death of his Elder Brother.

Geronto having thus Finish'd his Relation the whole Company, especially Florimel, seem'd extreamly pleased with it; For indeed it was hardly possible for him to speak to any Subject, tho' never so mean and Trivial, but what his great Wit would always Beautify with those Charming Graces which won the constant Applause of his Auditors,

an Excellence peculiar to himself in which few could ever Tollerably Imitate him.

Melintus Thank'd him for his pleasant Fancy as he call'd it, and told him a discourse of so much Mirth and Humour might have been better bestow'd for his part, Melancholy had of late so prevail'd upon him that all Comedy was as Harsh to his Ears, as the Clicking of a Death Watch to a Hoerding Miser.

But Madam says he to Aurelia, if you please to Circulate the discourse as of Right it belongs to you, I remember a Story I have formerly had the Honour to hear you tell, which if I mistake not was Tragically Unhappy, but as it then pleas'd with the Sadness of it, I am sure it would much more now, since my Vitiated Palat Relishes nothing but what is Compounded of the bitterest Ingredients.

Sir says Aurelia, I presume you meant the Story of Amasius and Ortelia, but I am afraid I shall unpardonably Transgress the

Commands of my Lord your Uncle, and the passion of the Relation will affect you too aerry; Tho' who knows but Melancholy, which is only a more Natural poyson, may be easiest Expell'd by an Application of its own Temperament, however, Sir, your Commands will Apologize for me, which I thus Obey.

NOVEL the Second.

By AURELIA.

A Young Gentleman whose Name was *Amor*, the only Son of an Opulent and well known Merchant of the City of *London*, after he had been furnish'd with a Competent Share of Learning, to Qualifie him for the Study of the Law, was plac'd at the Inns of Court, where the Advantages of his Fortunes and his own Modest behaviour gave him a Welcome reception amongst all his fellow Students. However
after

after he had Spent two years there, his mind inclin'd to Travel, and Communicating his design to his Father, easily obtain'd his consent. After he had seen *France* and *Italy* he came to *Brussels*, and Spent about four Months in *Flanders*, and then remov'd to *Amsterdam*, where Liv'd a Gentleman who was his Fathers correspondent, and an Eminent Merchant, at whose House he was invited to Lodge during his Residence there. This Gentleman who was of considerable Estate and quality, had great Resort of Company to his House, with whom *Amasius* soon acquainted himself, his Generous conversation and affable Temper rendred him Court'd and belov'd by all: He was likewise the Happy Father of three Daughters of so Incomparable Beauty that the whole Countrey could not produce their equals, nor were they less prais'd for a prudent Conduct, and Vertuous Education. With the youngest of these call'd *Ortelia*, it was the fortune of *Amasius* to fall in Love, and as if the same Loadstone had Attracted both their Hearts, the same passionate desires, warmed *Ortelia's* Breast, and tho' both of them were Shy of discovering their affections to one another, yet no opportunity was miss'd in which by all the little Arts of Obligation an

kindness they strove to advance themselves in each others favour, his Courtship was most particularly to her, and her regards and Eye alwayes upon him. If *Amasius* happen'd to sigh, *Ortelia* would turn her Face to hide her reply in the same Note ; In this Condition for some Months did they live, whilst by degrees all the diversions of the Countrey, the Visits of Friends, Balls and Entertainments grew Nauseous to the Lover, and a settled Melancholy seiz'd his Spirits. This was Observ'd by all his Acquaintance, but particularly by the compassionate Eyes of tender *Ortelia*, who seem'd very much concern'd least the same (probably) might be for some more Happy Mistress he had lost in *England*. Under this anxiety and disquietude she had suffer'd some Weeks, which perhaps had wrought more effectual to her disadvantage, had not *Amasius* one day took an opportunity when she was alone in her Chamber, employ'd upon a piece of curious Needlework, wherein she had drawn the little God smiling at a disconsolate Lady whose Heart he had, newly struck with one of his feather'd Weapons, prostrate at his Feet, as if she seem'd by her tears and piteous looks to beg his Mercy. Taking notice of the fancy.

Is it possible my dearest Ortelia, says he, you should be such an Artist in your Draughts of this God of Love, and never feel a Dart from his quiver? How know you Sir, reply'd the Fair One, but what you have seen may have a nearer Relation to Me then you are pleas'd to Imagine, and that this wounded Lady may be a proper device to represent my Unfortunate self; That Madam is Impossible (pursues Amasius) for then should I view you in another posture, I should see you Seated on a Throne with Crowns and Scepters at your Feet, an Imperial Canopy above your Head, supported by admiring Angels, disposing of bleeding hearts and my own amongst the Fatal Number. Oh Fy! reply'd she, you Complement me Amasius, as if I were that Object of your happiest desires the Seas now part you from, and I cannot but believe at the same time you address your Commendations to Ortelia, you intend them to one more Lovely in your Esteem. I did not think Madam, replies Amasius, you was so much a Stranger to your own perfections,

perfections, to believe these Eyes could be so much deceiv'd, as to place my respects on any other Object; Oh no assure your self that if Amasius must not be admitted to admire his Ortelia to steal a kiss, and Imprint his Lips on those fair Hands, to Languish at your Feet, and beg your Compassion, the grave shall have my Courtship, and for ever will I bid Adieu to all the empty pleasures on this side the Dust.

With these and such like Courtly Expressions as opportunity would give leave, did our Enamour'd Pair pass away the Hours, and give each other the assurance of as strong and lasting an Affection as Love it self could implant in the minds of the most passionate; Nor was the same so secretly caution'd, but that the Parents of Ortelia took Notice of its Growth, which as they saw no reason to discourage, so neither would they give License to the continuance of it, till such time as Amasius his Father was acquainted with it and they had obtain'd his consent. To which purpose the Dutch Merchant discour'd Amasius, telling him, that he was on his part ready to give Ortelia a proportionable Fortune to what his Father shou'd settle on him,

and

and was no wayes averſe to his Marriage with his Daughter. *Amafius* with tears of Joy return'd his acknowledgements; and Entreated him by all the Endearments Imaginable, for the next Pacquet to acquaint his Father with it, and beg his leave that it might be forthwith Consummated, this he promiſed, and accordingly did; This Letter *Amafius*, Seconded with one of his own, wherein he deſcribed the Vertues and agreeable ſweetneſs of *Ortelia's* temper; begging pardon that without his leave his thoughts had been fixt upon her, which he believ'd were directed by the Hand of providence, and deſign'd by Heaven for the Eſtabliſhment of his future happineſs. The Father was well pleaſed with the propoſals made by his Correſpondent, and in a ſhort time after return'd his conſent. This was certainly welcom'd with no inconfiderable Joy by the Lovers, who had Spent the laſt month in fear that ſome croſs accident might Obviate their expectations, or at leaſt procraftinate their Nuptials, which they ſo earneſtly wiſhed for; But having now the Conſent of their Parents Concurrent with their own deſires, the day of Marriage was agreed upon to be within a fortnight, and all neceſſary preparations taken care of, to render it as Splendid as publick. The pulses of our Lovers be at nothing but deſire, r

the Minutes seem'd to Travel on Crutches
and the Hours with a snails pace followed after.
Ten dayes were now past and the Eleventh had
shewed his Face, when early in the Morning a
Letter came by a particular Hand to *Amasius*
from his Father, the Contents were in these
words.

My Dear Amasius,
If ever thou intendest to see thy Living Fa-
ther, and as thou tenderest my Blessing upon
Sight of this, without any delay make all
possible hast to

Thy Loving and Dying
Father.

R. A.

Never did the young Swain with greater
Horror see the Enlightned Sky Dart out a
growing Thunderbolt amidst his harmless flock,
then did *Amasius* receive this killing Message
which struck his Enlivened Joy into Mortal ap-
prehensions. A Command so peremptory ad-
mitted no excuse nor can I relate with how great
a discontent, he was forced to obey the Mandate,
or in the least proportion express the sad Fare-
well, he was constrain'd to take of his weeping
Oxilia. The tears they Shed on his Sighs that
broke

broke prison from their Breasts, were as innumerable as the tears of Autumn, or the drops that fill the Ocean; yet obedience was indisputable, and his delatory and unwilling departure Criminal; in short, he Sigh'd and vow'd Eternal Love, promis'd his return, & almost dying on her Lips in his last salute, took leave & repaired to his Ship which waited for him. The willing winds waisted him unwillingly from the Joy of his Soul, and in a few Hours he lost sight of shore, where he had continually fixt his Eyes, and left his dearest treasure; In every blast he thought he heard *Ortelias* lamentation, and grew angry with the Churlish winds that they would not do him the same kind Office and return his Sighs to Her. His Voyage was but too prosperous in Conveying him thence, though in some measure he was pleas'd therewith in that it gave him hopes he should be the less while from the Mistress of his affections, with whom he had left his heart the pledge of his resolv'd return. In a few days he arrived at *London* where he found his Father upon recovery from a dangerous sickness in which his Physicians had despair'd of his Life. The old Gentleman welcom'd his beloved *Amelius* with the hearty affections of an Indulgent Father, whilst he Congratulated his escape from the Grave with all the Transports of a du-

shul

riful Son; After a little time he recover'd a
 good State of health, and receiv'd the Visits of
 his Friends and Neighbours. The General Ac-
 complishments of *Amasis* his affable discourse
 and Courteous behaviour were observ'd by all,
 who Commended him for the most compleat
 Gentleman they had ever seen; amongst others
 an Antient Gentleman, Master of a great Estate
 and Father of one only Daughter to inherit it;
 propos'd her to *Amasis* his Father as a conve-
 nient Match for his Son, at such time as he had
 procur'd his leave to depart and Consummate
 his Bliss with the Beauteous *Ortelia*. This o'd
 Fox knowing that her fortune would treble
 what was offer'd with *Ortelia*, greedily devour'd
 the bait, and Commanded *Amasis* to forget his
 first, and apply his Addresses to this Second My-
 stress, which tho' he refused with all the prayers
 and Gentle Arguments Love could Muster on
 his behalf, by the recital of those many and Sa-
 cred Vowes he had pass'd, and the miseries he
 must certainly meet in the Violation of that
 Troth whic Heaven itself had been witness to;
 yet the passionate Father, wholly devoted to his
 Interest, would by no means be prevail'd upon,
 but injoynd him by his Paternal Authority and
 as he hop'd to Heyr his Favour and fortune;
 to obey his Command wretchedly miserable was
 the

the Condition of *Amasius*, but complaints were in Vain, the old Men were agreed and he must submit or incur his Fathers utmost displeasure. However not all their Art or Industry could ever alienate his thoughts from his dear *Ortelia*. She was constantly in his Eye and the Subject of every Melancholy Soliloquy that he repeated to the careless winds and unanswering Groves, where he sigh'd away his tedious Hours. In Memory of her the tender Trees were wounded to Carve her Name, and every kind Turf that used to be his Couch was Nourish'd by the dew that fell from his Eyes; The Birds forgot their Notes, and learn't to Sympathize with him, and Echo it self repeated nothing but *Ortelia's* Name. Every one Compassionated the unhappy Youth; but the Cruel Father, who seeing all things in the Mirror of his own Sordid Interest forc'd *Amasius* to Visit his design'd Wife; but how Cold and unlike a Lover his Addresses were, the young Lady quickly took Notice of, and acquainted her Parents with it, which was not long before it came to his Fathers ears, who the more he found him Averse to his Humour, the more did he press the same, and charged him as un-utisfull and Rebellious to his Commands, which by all that was Sacred he Vow'd he should perform. To this end he forth-
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with

with enjoyn'd a Second Visit which disconsolate
Am *fin*s obeyed and having the opportunity
of private discourse with the young Lady, who
was a Person of equal discretion and Beauty he
resolv'd to deal generously with her, and lay his
present Condition naked before her. To this
end after some short discourse leading to his
purpose, he told her he was infinitely troubled
that he had not a heart, that he could intirely
devote to her Service, but that the same was
possessed by another whose Charms not long be-
fore had made an absolute Conquest over him,
and to whom by all the Vowes and promises that
Lovers make, he was in the strictest sort obliged;
So that should he go about to deceive her by
Counterfeiting a passion that could never be
real, he should play the Traytor with a Lady
who had for her Vertues and Incomparable de-
serts so much of his esteem, that he could never
pardon himself so great a crime. The young Lady
was extremely pleased with his Ingenious Con-
fession, and promised she would on her part ne-
ver go about to make him guilty of the breach
of those Vow, he look'd upon above all others,
to have some thing more awful and Religious in
them and exacted the most sincere observance:
But on the contrary she would endeavour what
lay in her power to divert her Father from his
design. Ah Madam! replied the gladdened Ar

fin, and can you be so kind, so forgetful of my faults, and give me your pardon, then may I hope once more to be happy.

You have it Sir, says the Lady, and an Esteem with it suitable to your Merits, for surely there is none who knows your Circumstances but must Commend you, and to Evince to the World, I am one of that Number, the blame shall be mine; and if you please, in Obedience to your Fathers Commands, to pursue your Courtship, the Breach shall appear on my part.

Its Heaven! Heaven Madam! Reply'd the overjoy'd *Amisus*, that must repay this favour, which all my Stock of Gratitude is too poor to Answer in the least degree. These and such like discourses were the Entertainment of the Second Meeting wherein it was resolv'd *Amisus* should carry on his seeming Addresses, and the refusal to be on the Ladies side, this he so lively personated, that in the eyes of the World, he was look'd upon as absolutely Enamor'd of her excellencies as if the same had been real, upon which his Father receiv'd him with a double return of his respect and kindness to him. The old Gentleman having settled the whole
affair

affair between themselves, agreed the time and place to finish the *Espousals*, under which apprehension, let us change the Scene to *Holland*, where during the time of *Amasius* absence, the disconsolate *Ortelia* like the Mourning Turtle on her Melancholy perch, Sigh'd out her Sorrows in the longing expectation of her Dear *Amasius* his return, but having by the miscarriage of his Letter for two Months heard nothing from him, began to think him unkind and forgetful of his Vowes; when it happened an English Gentleman Travelling into those parts, and invited to her Fathers House with other Friends one day to Dinner, amongst the variety of their discourse of *England*, and of their several acquaintance there, it was ask'd if he knew *Amasius* his Father; how he did, and if perfectly recover'd from his late Sickness, which he told them he was, and that his Son, the young Gentleman, was to be suddenly Married with a Lady to whom he had been some time Engaged. This unexpected News Surpriz'd the whole Family, but especially *Ortelia*, who trembled and chang'd a Colour at it; the question was renew'd by *Ortelias* Father, Sir, says he, I have some knowledge of the young Gentleman, and should be very glad to hear of his prosperity, and I entreat you, Sir, if you can to tell me more particularly

ticularly the Person to whom, and the Grounds
 of your assurance that he is so soon to Change
 his Condition. In answer to which, the Gentle-
 man told him her Name, described her Person
 and fortune, and withal gave her a very advan-
 tageous Character, as to her Vertues, her Beau-
 ty and excellent Temper. adding that before he
 left *England* the day had been appointed; which
 he supposed would happen two days following,
 that he was with *Amasius*, and his Father when
 the Wedding Clothes were bought, and other
 provisions made for the Solemnity. And is,
 pursues one of *Ortelius* Sisters, *Amasius* as accom-
 plished a Lover as he seems a Gentleman;
 Doubtless Madam, says the stranger, he wants
 nothing to Commend him to the World in all
 respects, and I have observ'd, (for I live near
 him) his Visits to be very assiduous, his man-
 ners address Vigorous and Courtly; The day
 I came for *Holland* he waited upon her in a New
 Chariot Richly gilt, in which they both went
 to a play together. Perfidious Wretch! says
Ortelius to her self, am I so soon forgotten! ---
 Oh *Amasius*! and blush'd, and could scarce re-
 frain her Eyes from expressing the Violence of
 her passion, which her Friends taking Notice of,
 diverted the discourse. and Dinner being ended;
 She slip from the Company to her Chamber,
 where

where after she had given her passion its full
 rage against the false *Amasius*, she flung her
 self down upon the Bed, where she lay till her
 Sisters came up to comfort her. But alas ! too
 late, for the Torrent of her Grievs had already
 put a fatal period to her life, and her Soul was
 fled to those Mansions of Bliss which she miss'd
 of here, so strange were their surprize at so
 sudden a Disaster, that they could scarce believe
 their eyes, their loud shrieks and cries call'd up
 the House, and so excessive was the general La-
 mentation that it is beyond the power of my
 expression to describe it. I will now leave this
 House of Mourning and return to *Amasius*, who
 all this time had liv'd upon the Rack, and was
 against his will oblig'd to Act a part so directly
 contrary to his Inclinations and the ingenuity of
 his Temper ; But this being at the Ladies re-
 quest and known to her, it did the less concern
 him : On the other Hand : the young Lady had
 used all her endeavours with her Father to put
 off the Match, alledging in her self a present in-
 disposition of health, and unwillingness so hasti-
 ly to change her Condition, nor could she dis-
 cover, (whatever the world might see,) those
 Graces in *Amasius* his Person, or that agreeable
 Humour in his conversation, that should tempt
 her to Marry him, and Hazard her future hap-
 piness

pinefs in the Choice of a Husband ſhe could ne-
 ver intirely Love. But all her arguments were
 in Vain, her perverſe Father would permit no
 diſputes, but ſharply reprov'd her, Saying, not
 her Eyes ſhould be the guide of her Choice,
 that ſhould depend on his pleaſure; that he was
 very well ſatiſfied in *Amasius*, and did expect
 nothing from her but a due Compliance to his
 Will. In this ſtate their affairs ſtood till the
 very Night was come which preceeded the
 Morning of their Nuptials, on which as they
 wered ſcouring together, *Amasius* on his knees
 beg'd her pardon that he muſt unwillingly take
 ſome other courſe to avoid that, which to any
 other man in the World would be the greateſt
 Bleſſing his Soul could wiſh to enjoy on this
 ſide Heaven; But what the ſame ſhould be he
 was not yet determin'd, but impoſſible it was,
 that he could be ever forc't to betray his vows
 to *Ortelia*. The good Lady pityed his Condi-
 tion, and beg'd him by no deſperate Act to
 urge his Fate, telling him ſhe would be ready
 to ſhare his miſfortunes, & equally ſuffer with
 him. The Evening grew on apace and *Amasius*
 with a Thouſand thanks to the Generous Lady
 took leave, no wayes reſolv'd what to do,
 his wandring thoughts fell upon ſeveral Stra-
 tagems to defer the Wedding, but none of them
 pleas'd

pleased him, the Obstinacy of his Father was not to be removed by all his prayers and Intreaties. At last he resign'd himself to his Pillow, and recommended the success of this great affair to the care and Conduct of his better *Genius*; however this point he fixt, that rather then break his Vowes he would Venture the displeasure of his Father, and if no Mediation would reconcile him, he resolv'd for *Holland* to live and dye with his Dear *Ottelia*. Often did he endeavour to Compose himself to rest, but the Troubles of his mind kept his Eyes open, nor had he slept a wink when the clock struck two, the Moon shone full upon the Window. and his Melancholy fancy was shaping the several Shadows into various representations and figures, when he thought he heard his door open, and turning his Eye he saw the Appearance of a Woman with a Mournful and pale look, enter his Chambers, startled at the *Phantasm* as he at first supposed it to be, after a little time he recover'd himself & observing the figure more nearly, he thought he beheld the very Person of *Ottelia*, Clad all in white with her Hair disshrevell'd, and at the End of every Lock a drop of Blood, which hung round her Shoulders like a Chain of Rubyes; On her head she seem'd to have a Crown of Gold set round with diamonds, Emeralds,

Emeralds, Sapphires, and other precious Stones of different Colours whose Dazling rayes his weaker eyes could no more behold then the Sun in his Meridian Glory, this surprizing Vision struck a sacred horror through every part, tho' the strangeness of the Apparition did not so much affright as the Majestick Port and radiant Graces pleas'd his admiring fancy: It moved in a gentle pace towards the Bed, and drawing the Curtains in a pleasing but hollow voice. Spoke to him.

Fear not, Amasius, for I am now too late satisfied of thy Fidelity to the Mistaken Ortelia, nor do I come from the Shades of Death, to reproach thy unconstant Love, it hath been the Misfortune of my Credulity, not thy Disloyalty, too late I knew it, to Remedy the dissolution I suffer'd; but the powers amongst whom I am, have since reveal'd the truth and tho' I can never be thine.

Not mine, replied the trembling *Amasius*, not mine, *Ortelia*? Think not those Shades shall ever hide thee, no *Ortelia*; if really thou art my *Ortelia*, surely thou couldst not think so hardly of me, but even amidst those dark Shades below *Amasius* would seek thee out; and

and since our Destinies have forbid us to abide on Earth, is there no Society beneath it? thither I will follow thee, and Trace every step of thine till I have wearied thy Fleeting Mance and forc'd thee to repose, where I will rest in thy Bosom and enjoy the happiness of being ever with thee,

Alas Amasius! Reply'd the Mournfull Shade, little art thou learnt in what we know, nor dare I tell thee what we are Subject to, who Travel in that great Abyss. Live therefore, Amasius, 'tis Heaven enjoins it, Heaven (to which in a short time my undring spirit must take its everlasting flight) bids thee not shake the Sands of life which in a short time will of themselves run out, much less break the precious Chrissall that contains them; long it will not be ere we shall meet again and be for ever joyn'd by Tyes more Sacred then Flesh and Blood can admit of here. Oh Amasius, we shall be infinitely happy, but we must wait the leisure of Heaven to make us so.

May that time quickly come, cries the passionate Amasius, move faster, O ye Sluggish Hours

Hours and huddle into days, ye days into years
to accomplish that Happy period.

*'Twill not be long first, said Ortelia, but
in the meantime observe my Request, and
do no Violence to your self, nor ever
consent to Marry the Person design'd
nor any other, and if you can possibly pre-
vent it, never reveal one Syllable of this
discourse, nor let the World know I have
now appear'd to you, for if you do, my rest-
less Ghost will ever haunt you.*

I dare promise any thing thy Blessed Shade
desires me, Reply'd *Azafus*, but to live is a pu-
nishment too intolerable for frail Mortality to
bear, I'll cast off my hated Life with all the
Gild'd vanities that attend it, to be Blest a-
mongst the Number of the dead, with the Sight
of my *Ortelia*

*We must not, said She, Carve out our
own desires, if we should, our unskilful
Hand would oft mistake the Poison for the
Antidote, but as thou Tenderest the Prayers
and Entreatyes of dead Ortelia, patiently
attend'thy Fate.*

At which word the Shrill Harbinger of the

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Morn

Morn gave Notice of the approach of day, and
 Summon'd all wandring Ghosts to their dark
 abode; when *Ottelia* contracting her scatter'd
 Rayes into one Glorious Beam of Light, cryed
 Farewell! Farewell! My Dear *Amasius*, and
 vanish'd in a Minute. *Amasius*, seeing that *Or-
 telia* was now gone beyond recall, fell into these
 passionate Complaints, Oh kind Death, if ever
 thou had'st pity for the Miserable, suffer thy self
 this once to be entreated, dis-charge me from
 this Clog of earth which still sinks my aspiring
 Soul; See here a Resistless breast which begs but
 one single Shaft, and hast thou none at leasure?
 Insulting Tyrant to keep the wretched in
 Chains, and like the Conquer'd *Bajazet* make
 me the Gazing Stock of Fools, whilst I am im-
 prison'd in this Cage of Flesh, but Oh! that like
 him, I could dash out life, against those Bars that
 hold me! Oh sad parting, Oh Dear *Ottelia*!
 and art thou gone so soon from me, who perhaps
 may never see thee more? Come death and ease
 me, Oh cruel fate obey! No! no! I am con-
 demn'd to Linger out a miserable life in pains,
 more Exquisite then the sharpest Martyrdoms,
 but thou dear Soul hast told me it shall not be
 long. Oh remember but thy last promise, and I
 will ask no more to compleat me happy; with
 these and other dolorous Expression did the
 Unhappy

Unhappy *Amasius* Vent his sorrows, whilst excess of passion had thrown him into a Violent Fever. In the Morning early, his Friends came Crowding to his Chamber to bid good Morrow, to the Bridegroom, and finding him in Bed yet, one of them began to Rally his Sluggishness, who on a Wedding-day when all the preparations for the Nuptials waited for him, and his Friends were Met to welcom the Happy Hour, was the greatest Loyterer himself: To whom *Amasius* only answer'd with a deep Sigh, which was followed by Showers of Tears, the most pathetick Oratory of a troubled Mind: what weeping, *Amasius*? sayes another, sye for shame, let the old and impotent who have worn out Youth, and are now curst with the miseries of Age bewail the loss of those pleasures they once did Revel in; but thou art now in full possession of those riper Joys, and thy happier fortune speaks nothing but Mirth and Jollity. Pray forbear Sir, your unwelcom Jest and spare your Railery, at this time said *Amasius*, the Grave must be my Marriage Bed, and Oh that I were now to dress myself, and be there undrest at Night, with what cheerfulness should you then see me consummate those wish'd for Espousals. But Gntl men, as you are my Friends let me beg of you to give me no farther disturbance, my thoughts are

otherways disposed of then you imagine, and the greatest kindness you can do me is to leave me to my own Meditations. In so disconsolate a tone did *Amasus* deliver himself, that he strangely Surpriz'd the hearers with pity for his Condition, the reason of which they could not possibly imagine. His Father was immediately acquainted with it, who coming to his Bed-side found him extremely ill, and fitter for the Advice of the Physicians then the Entertainment of his Friends, or the intended Solemnity. The Doctors were sent for to consult of his present Distemper, who all agreed he was in a High Fever, but that the cause thereof was not External, but from some extraordinary grief which oppress his Spirits, and was not to be remov'd by all their Learned prescriptions, nor could they advise a more proper Cure then what they endeavour'd to prevent his Death. For some weeks in this miserable Condition, did he linger out the tedious Hours, to the great trouble and discomfort of his Relations, who daily Visited him, and as often prest to know the cause of his present affliction, which he the more carefully strove to hide, nor could they Guess at any probable cause, but as they observ'd his deep Sighs, and then of a sudden his passionate and abrupt expressions of O dear *Ortelia*, happy *Ortelia*, but

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lost, but gone for ever O miserable wretch, miserable *Amasius*, I come, I come, my Joy, my Dear Saint, I com, from whence they all concluded nothing but the Hand of Heaven could work a Cure on his Distemper'd mind, whilst his Body only Sympathiz'd with the anguish of his Soul; in the mean time, his Father heard from his Dutch correspondent, how fatal his unkindness had been to his Family, who now began to see his own Error, and blame himself as the only cause of those Misfortunes in which they had both so great a Share; and that by crossing the Establish'd Loves of *Amasius* and *Ottelia* (which receiv'd their Life and vigour from his encouragement) he had occasion'd the death of Beautifull *Ottelia*, and reduc'd his Son into those miseries and discontents from which he had but small hopes to recover him. However after six weeks Languishing under his illness, he began to grow into a better State of health, but his Melancholy increased upon him; Though his Father endeavour'd by all imaginable diversions to drive it from his wounded mind, and supposing he yet knew nothing of *Ottelia's* Death, resolv'd to Conceal it from him, till he had in some measure Estrang'd his Affections from her, which he hoped in time to Effect. But after two Months were pass'd, and *Amasius* was rather

worse then better, he began to think that if his Son, knew of *Ortelia's* death; and the impossibility of ever enjoying her, it might by degrees quiet his troubled mind, and put him upon some thoughts of perfecting the Match he had design'd him with much advantage. Accordingly one Evening he took an opportunity to disclose *Ortelia's* Death to him omitting those Circumstances that more particularly concern'd her love to him, which would rather aggravate then allay his passion,

Alas Sir ! said Amasius, I have long since known more of that affair then you are pleas'd to Communicate to me now ; I know that Ortelia is dead, and that Amasius can never be happy till he is so too ; But for this I must blame the weakness of my Love, that what a Woman could do for me, I cannot for her, nor dare not, Since I am forbid all violent Remedies, which adds to my affliction, and prevents that Cure, which otherwise I would soon accomplish.

His Father was strangely Surpriz'd to see himself prevented in his discovery, and commanded *Amasius* to tell him how he came by his Intelligence, supposing that contrary to his order

der some of his Friends had acquainted him with it.

Amasius humbly beg'd his Pardon, and assur'd him, it was not from his Relations or any Person else he had Entrusted with the Secret, that he came by the knowledge of it, and earnestly pray'd him not to press that question any farther, which if in Obedience to his Commands he should be oblig'd to Answer, would yet add more to that weight of sorrow he so miserably labour'd under.

This made the old Gentleman his Father the more Inquisitive, who conjur'd him by that respect and duty he ow'd him as his Father, to give him a plain and Satisfactory account, which without any excuse he immediately expected from him.

Well sir, said Amasius, since you will extort a Secret from me, which of all things can only make me more Unhappy, take it, and Judge if my Duty to you is not above all regard to my self --- Here Amasius acquainted his Father how he had seen Ortelia, and the discourse he had with her, the Night before his intended Nuptials, Adding

ding withal, that in declaring what he had forc'd him to, he should be the most miserable of Men, as the Sequel of his Unhappy Life approv'd him to be.

Some time after his Father by the Advice of his Friends, remov'd *Amasius* into the Countrey, and having several Relations and acquaintance near *Torh*, that place was fixt upon, hoping that Change of Air and variety of Company might be of advantage to his Health, and a diversion to his Melancholy. But Alas! He never Enjoy'd a Minute free from the thoughts of his fair deceal'd *Ortelia*, the only Intervals of pleasure he had, were when the kind Ghost of *Ortelia* came to visit him, which she was often wont to do, or at least his deluded Fancy Imagined so, from that time (when by the Severity of his Father he was forc'd to discover that he had both seen and discoursed with her the Night before the intended Marriage.) At several times would he start up on a sudden from his Company, saying, do you not hear *Ortelia's* voice? I come, I come, my Dear, Ah there she is, pray do but observe how kindly the poor *Ortelia* looks on her *Amasius*, see how Melancholy and pale she is, how beautifully sorrowful she Glances at me, Oh my Dear I come, but when shall I come, never

to part from thee more ? Oh that this was that blessed Hour that would make me for ever happy with thee ! And then retireing into the next Room, would talk with the same passionate Expressions of Love and tenderness to her, as if he did really Converse with her in the visible form of Flesh and Blood. Thus did he pass away about half a year, when one Night after he had been walking and discoursing with her for at least two Hours (tho' at all these several times she was never seen by any Person but himself, sometimes indeed they could distinguish two several Voices) when returning to his Friends more pleasant and Merry then ever he had been before, I thank Heaven, sayes he, my sorrows have now found a period; I have but few nights more to repose on Earth, and then shall I live with my *Ortelia*, and enjoy Eternal Rest of Body and Trinquillity of mind. That Night he Slept heartily and next Morning arose early in a most Serene and Compos'd Temper, at which his Friends were extreemly pleased, and tho' they were much Surpriz'd at the discourse of his approaching Death, yet seeing him continue so well for three dayes, they began to forget their fears, and please themselves with the vain hopes of his perfect recovery. The next day being Thursday, and Bowling-day, it was agreed they

D s

should

should take their Horses and Ride to the Green,
and there Dine with other Gentlemen who usu-
a'lly Met there once a Week: *Amasius* cheer-
fully consented to it, which was the more taken
Notice of, it being the first time they could ever
prevail with him to go into a publick Company,
or divert himself with any Sociable Recreation.
After Dinner they Bowl'd again, when a dispute
arising about a Cast, *Amasius* took his friends
part, at which his Adversary was so Incensed
(being a Cholerick Person) that he struck him
with his fist, but the Gentlemen who were pre-
sent interposing they prevented any farther
Mischeif. *Amasius*, who disdain'd to receive so
publick an Injury with the patience of a coward,
withdrew into the Garden, and privately sent a
note to the Gentleman to let him know, he there
expected with his Sword in his Hand Satisfac-
tion for the Affront he had put upon him. His ad-
versary came, and after some few passes ran
Amasius through the heart, of which he imme-
diately dyed, and went with Jey to meet his
Dear *Ortelia* in the Shades below, to the great
Grief of his Father and all his friends, who had
known his Vertuous and Honourable Accom-
plishments.

Amasius

Aurelia having thus Finish'd her Tragical Relation, Melintus paid her his more particular acknowledgements, nor did the Rest of the Company forget their Respects, tho' all thought it an unreasonable Entertainment for a Gentleman, whose present Distemper had too much affinity to Honorius his Melancholy passion; and were not a little apprehensive of the ill Effects it might produce. However to prevent his being too serious and considerate upon it, Lysander, who was next in the Rota, took his turn and thus address'd to the Company.

NOVEL the Third.

By LYSANDER.

IT was the unhappiness of Cratander, whose Generosity very often out-strippt his prudence, and his Natural Bounty the Narrow Confiness of

of his Estate, to be at last reduc'd to great necessity, his Friends Commiserating his Condition advised how they might best assist his present distress, and prevent his own and the dishonour of his family. They resolv'd at last upon a friendly Contribution to raise some Moneys, and present him with a good Gelding, and propos'd to him the going up to *London*, where he might put himself into some employ, and particularly that of the Kings Guards, which would afford him a Gentile and competent Support.

Cratander was easily perswaded to embrace the Counsel of his friends, and not long after left the North his Native Countrey, and took his Journey to *London*. After he had spent some Months there in vain, either through his own ill Conduct, the Modesty of his Temper which could not sue for favours with that Confidence which others succeed by, or that his Stars had design'd him for some greater end, having almost spent the little Stock he had, he saw he should be soon forc't to Sell his Horse to buy Hay, and to Live longer there at so great Expence, would most certainly involve him in Debt and Misery. In the midst of these distract-ed thoughts he resolv'd to quit the Town, and make a Visit to an old Acquaintance who was Master of a plentiful Estate, and lived in the West

West of *Eng'land*, and accordingly did so. The next Morning he set out early, and Travell'd almost fifty Miles, when Night coming upon him hastily he lost his way upon a great Common, and not knowing the Coast of the Countrey wandred up and down, till at last he spy'd a Candle at a Shepherds Cott about half a Mile, distance, which he steer'd up to. Hallowing to know who liv'd there, the Shepherd came out, of whom he Enquired the way to the Town he intended to Lodge at that Night, the Shepherd told him he was five Miles off, and the way difficult to find, if he was a stranger in the Countrey, *Cratander* told him he was, and had already lost his way and tired his Horse, and if he would be so kind to give him Accommodation for that night, he would gratifie him to his Content.

The Shepherd told him his was a House but of one Room, tho' plentifully Furnish'd with Inhabitants, that besides his Wife and himself he had Six Children, and but one Bed, and a Matress, and not so much as a Hovel to put his Horse in.

Cratander then enquired if there was no neighbouring Village could give him a Reception for one night, the Shepherd told him a
mile

mile off there was one, and if he pleas'd he would be his Guide, which *Craander* accepted of when they were Arrived at it, they found but one Ale-house in the Town, and that afforded no better Accommodation then the *Shepherds* Hutt; *Craander* in this distress, ask'd if there was no Gentleman or Farmer in the Town would be so kind to Entertain him for a Night, the Shepherd told him it was a very poor Village, but there was a Mannor Houle in it, at which a Gentlewoman now liv'd who was Daughter to the Lord of the Mannor, who died six Months ago, that she probably might be so kind to him as a stranger, when others for the same reason would distrust and refuse him so Charitable a favour. *Craander*, with the directions of the Shepherd, went up to the Hall, the Shepherd knock'd at the gate, and told the servant a Gentleman desir'd to speak with her Mistress, who immediately sent to Invite him in, *Craander* excus'd himself, that it would be too great a boldness in him who was a stranger to the Lady, but he would wait as a beggar at her Gate to intreat a Boon from her Hands. The Maid carried back this answer, which surpriz'd the Young Lady, especially when her Servant told her he was a Gentleman on Horseback well accountred, and *Robin* who was her Shepherd was with him, the Lady came present-

ly to the Gate to whom *Cratander* with all Modesty and respect address'd himself.

I am, Madam, tho' a Stranger to you, forc't to presume upon your Favour, that you will please to give leave to a Traveller who has lost his way to beg a Lodging for himself and Horse, the same Stable shall Entertain as both, nor should any thing but down-right necessity oblige me to this Confident Petition.

The Lady who was of a most affable and sweet Temper told him readily he was most heartily Welcom, and she only wish'd her present Hospitality could answer the Merits of her Guest; upon this invitation *Cratander* alighted, whom the Lady Conducted into the House and order'd his Horse to the Stable. He was Entertain'd in the principal Room with a plentiful Supper, which being ended, *Cratander* in the most Obliging Expressions paid his thanks to the Generous Lady, and taking up his Sword and Pistol which lay upon the Table, now Madam if you please, I will walk into the Stable and repose my self by my Horse, for this day's Journey has made me both weary and Sleepy; The Lady at these words seem'd extremly Surpriz'd, and with a graceful sharpness told him, She was very sorry that the Cordial Welcom
She

She better design'd him, then was ab'e to exprefs upon fo sudden an Occasion ſhould be ſo far miſtaken; That ſhe hop'd her Houſe, how meanly ſoever Furniſh'd, might afford him a better Leding then her Stable, which ſhe deſir'd he would believe by accepting of it. *Cratander* was much out of Countenance at this reprimand, but recovering himſelf, Modestly reply'd, Dear Madam, you have already ſo infinitely oblig'd me that I had not Confidence enough to Trepasſ farther upon ſo Generous a Temper, eſpecially when at the ſame time I conſider my ſelf an abſolute ſtranger to you, which perhaps may create ſome fears and Jealouſyes in your Family, though your Noble Breſt which knows no Guilt in it ſelf, can Harbor no ſuſpition of others. The Lady Bluſht and told him, She ſaw too much Honour in his Perſon and demean to Judge ſo unworthily of him, and deſir'd he would pleaſe to take his Chair and paſs away half an Hour, till his Chamber was prepar'd for him. *Cratander* had obſerv'd that both before and at Supper the Maid that waited had her eye conſtantly fixt upon him, and with a look that ſpoke Horror and Conſternation, as if ſhe ſuſpected him for a Perſon who had ſome Villainous deſign brooding in his heart, which his being ſo well Arm'd gave occaſion for, Nor

was he mistaken for she had several times prest her Mistress that the stranger might lye in the Stable with his Horse as he himself requested, That it happen'd out very oddly that this stranger should come this very Night upon those pretensions when no such accident ever was before, a Night when all the Men-Servants, had leave to be abroad at a Countrey Wake and none but Women and a poor Boy who belong'd to the Stables left at home, her Mistress heard her reasons and inclin'd to her Opinion, but considering what a reflection it would be upon her, if this stranger was really that worthy Gentleman he appear'd to be, she resolv'd to run all risques rather then be guilty of so base and degenerate an Action. The Gentleman and Lady had pass'd away the time in variety of discourse, by which she was now fixt in a good Opinion of him, and had fully banish'd those fears and apprehensions her Maid had whisper'd in her Ear, when the Servant came down and told her the Chamber was ready, if the Gentleman pleas'd to go to Bed, upon which her Mistress order'd her to take the Candle and wait upon him to his Lodging. The Lady attended him to his Chamber, and smilingly told him, Sir, pray Command whatever you want, and my house affords, I wish you good Rest and
hope

hope your Lodging will be as pleasant here as in the Stable --- *Cratander* would have reply'd, but the Lady was gone. The Maid having left the Gentleman to his rest, went to her Mistresses Chamber, where she began a fresh discourse her former Suspitions, but the Lady with a frown bid her be Silent and make herself to Bed; those Jealousies were idle fancies only, and should never discompose her rest whatever should be the issue of them. The Maid went to her Chamber, put out the Candle and lay'd herself upon the Bed, wishing for the Morning, which would dispell those Melancholy thoughts that now oppress her mind. Her present fears banish'd all Sleep from her Eyes, and the Clock had now struck One, when she heard a Noise in the Court-yard, starting up she ran to the window, where she saw four Men at the door, who first Tryed the Latch to see if it was open, and finding it fast Bolted and Lockt, they endeavour'd by main strength to force their Entrance, the Maid frighted out of her wits, ran to her Mistresses Chamber, where with her passionate Out cries, She awaken'd her, and told her,

There were four Robbers in the yard breaking into the House, who would certainly Murder them all, and the Person she had Entertain'd

Entertain'd was no doubt of their Gang:

The Lady Alarm'd at this unexpected News, half-distracted flew to Cratanders Chamber, who was fast asleep and loudly Snoring, but she soon awakened him with her loud complaints, and upon her Knees with all the passion, and moving Rhetorick her fears could inspire her with.

Beg'd her Life and Honour of him, and the preservation of her Family, and She would immediately deliver him all her Money, Plate, Jewels, or whatever else he thought worth his acceptance; And in the same Breath repeated, but pray Sir spare my Life, spare my Honour, and I shall think myself indebted to you for whatever I part with besides.

Cratander, whose thoughts at the lowest Ebb of fortune could never Entertain a base design, was no less Surpriz'd then the Lady, and told her.

Madam, I understand not your meaning, but if you please to be plain in your Expressions, I will defend both your Life and Honour with the utmost hazard of my own. Oh Sir, says the Lady, there are Thieves breaking

*breaking into my House, and pardon me if I mistake you for one of their Confederates. It eⁿ convince you presently, reply'd Cratander, and leaping out of Bed Slipt on his Clothes, and with his Sword and Pistols, by the Maids direction, made to that part of the House they first attempted, Cratander had the fortune to have just got to the door, when they forc't it open, and discharging one of his Pistols amongst them, he saw a Person drop, upon which they gave back; but he with his Sword in Hand, advanced two or three Steps, and by the opposition he met with, from one of them receiv'd a Slight Wound upon his Breast, which he reveng'd by another upon his Aave saries right Arm, which so disabled him that he gave back, and Cratander retreated to the door for fear their odds might oppress him, whose safety depended only on his single Courage. The Thieves seem'd to go off, and left one of their Companions bleeding upon the Ground, which Cratander (by his Groans) suppos'd to be dying, but not knowing what
reserve*

reserve of strength they might have, he made fast the door and went up to his Chamber, where he had left the Lady half dead with fear.

Madam, says he, was it not for what your Ladyship has suffer'd in the affright I am heartily glad of this opportunity, which has I hope in some measure made me Serviceable to your Ladyship, and given a Testimony of that Honour and Justice which before as a stranger might be question'd in me. The Lady with tears in her Eyes, which stood ready to fall out either with Joy or sorrow, return'd her thanks in the most grateful Sense her words could express, call'd him the Preserver of her Life, Honour and Fortune, who certainly was sent from Heaven, like a *Guardian Angel*, to defend her from the rapine and Violence of Thieves and Murderers. After some care taken of his wound, which was not deep, they resolv'd not to go to Bed for fear of a Second Attaque, but in *Cratanders* Chamber spent the remainder of the Nighr, wishing for the Morning light, that they might safely discover the Person who was left behind dead upon the Spot; As soon as the day appear'd, *Cratander*, the Lady, and the rest of the Family open'd the door, and in the yard found

a great quantity of blood spilt upon the Ground, but the Body was convey'd away, which they could trace no farther then the out-ward Gate, which was left open, and the lock broke off; *Cratander* stay'd two days till his wound was Clos'd, and the Lady recover'd from that Consternation she was under, when ready on the third day to take his leave against all those arguments of kindness and respect the Lady could press upon him, a Servant came over to invite her to the Funeral of her Uncle, a Gentleman of Competent Estate who liv'd ten miles off. The Lady was very much Surpriz'd to hear of her Uncles so sudden death, whom she had not known to be ill, and particularly enquir'd the cause, to whom the Servant could give no other Answer, but that going to Bed something indispos'd, he was found dead in the Morning, the Lady was now Furnish'd with fresh occasion of Grief, which she made use of as a powerful reason to perswade *Cratander* to stay one day longer, and particularly desir'd him to bear her Company to that mournfull Solemnity. *Cratander* told her he was extreamly sorry for her loss of so near a Relation -- Alas Sir, says she, it is not that alone, I have a second loss in a good Friend, to whose Care and Advice my dying Father recommended me, and I have been sufficiently sensible

sensible of his kindness in the management of those worldly affairs Women are generally born strangers to. The next day being that of his Funeral, *Cratander* promis'd to wait upon her, and in the Interim endeavor'd to chear up her drooping Spirits with a Suitable Conversation to her Solemn grief. Being arrived at the House the Lady was earnest to know what sudden Distemper was the cause of her Uncles death, her Aunt told her she suppos'd an Apoplexy, but desiring to see the Corps, she answer'd that being a Corpulent Fat Man the Coffin was nail'd up early in the Morning for fear the Body, which began already to Corrupt, should be offensive to the Company. The Lady was very well Satisfied with the answer, and led by *Cratander*, attended the Corps to the Grave. At their return home discoursing of the Funeral, *Cratander* ask'd who that Gentleman was in the Brown Periwig that assisted at the Interment, The Lady told him, he was a Gentleman of intimate acquaintance with her Uncle, who had formerly a fair Estate, but his too lavish Hand had now forc'd him to receive his Support from the kindness of his more familiar and Charitable Friends. Madam, says *Cratander*, did you not observe a black Ribbon tyed about the wrist of his Right Hand; yes Sir, says she, I did so, he is

a Gentleman who drinks high and is often in Broyls, I wish Madam, says *Cratander*, he was guilty of no other fault, tho' I cannot commend a quarrelsome Temper in my best Friends; but proceeds he, would you please to Seal my pardon before-hand, I would make one step farther, which I shall do with all respect to the Memory or reputation of any Gentleman alive or dead. Sir, says she, I am altogether in the dark, and cannot Guess at your meaning, but assure your self it is not in your power to disoblige me: Madam, says *Cratander*, when 'twas my good fortune the other Night to engage the Thieves who had broke into your House, I after the fall of one of them, I prest forward with my Sword & receiv'd the hurt upon my Breast from another, which by that glimmering light of the Moon we then had bore the perfect Shape and likeness of this Gentleman, who at the same time receiv'd a hurt on his right Hand, which this Person seems to have; Sir, (says the Lady, a little warmly) pray what do you infer, Madam, says he, I do suspect this Gentleman to have been in the Company, and I should be very glad to be satisfied in it. Sir, says she you seem to hint something more then I am willing to believe you do. Madam, reply'd *Cratander*, I shall make no reserves in your Ladyships Company, but I heartily with this Hand did

did not Contribute more to your Uncles death then I ever design'd it should.

Sir, sayes she, 'tis impossible I dare acquit you, and do at this Minute, and pray let us discourse no farther on so unpleasant a Subject.

Madam, sayes he, I will Trespass but in one word more, my Suspicion commenc'd when I first saw that Gentleman at the House, before I ever knew he had any hurt on his Hand, for I observ'd I could never fix my Eye upon him but either through shame or Guilt he avoided the Test of my looks, and either chang'd Countenance, or Show'd some inward emotion of Spirit, which they who are better Read in the lines of Nature, and more Critically observe her Rules, would Construe in the same Sense that I do.

Sir, sayes the Lady, I am no wayes averse to your Satisfaction in that point, but I would at the same time have a due regard to my Name and Family.

Madam, reply'd Cratander, I will proceed by such wary Methods as you your self shall approve of; I will go to some Chirurgeon thereabouts, and complain the wound I receiv'd on my Breast Festers within, and advise with him

for the Cure, and so from one to another, and if
 at his Gentlemans wound appears to be so, and
 no strain, in all probability he applyed himself
 to some Neighbouring Chirurghion, and by him
 may receive some leading Circumstances to con-
 firm or abate my Suspicion.

*Sir, says the Lady, upon the Terms I be-
 fore mentioned, you may use your pleasure.*

Cratander accordingly the next day took his
 Horse, and at a publick Inn near the Town
 where the Uncle liv'd, desir'd to know if there
 was ever a Chirurghion in that part of the Coun-
 try, whom he might safely intrust. The Land-
 lord directed him to one at the next Town, to
 whom Cratander Show'd his wound, which was
 not perfectly Cured, and in discourse, was asking
 if he had much practice in the Country for green
 Wounds, the Chirurghion told him every tittle,
 and that by accident the other day, a Gentle-
 man who had been engag'd in a quarrel, receiv'd
 a Cut on his Right Hand, whom he now had
 under Cure, which had it not slanted a little
 had certainly Cut all his Muscles in two and for-
 ever disabled him. The Person & Circumstance
 of time he more particularly urg'd, but at that
 distance, as if rather for discourse sake then
 Enquiry, and found them all Correspond with
 his first Suspicion. At Night he acquainted the
 Lady

Lady with the particulars, and prevail'd with her, that he might get a Justice of Peaces Warrant to apprehend him, and oblige him upon his Examination to give a Satisfactory account where and when he receiv'd that wound. This was done and the Gentleman taken into Custody, who giving only Evasive Answers, was told if he would not be more positive and direct, they should be forc'd to charge him more Criminally, which an ingenious Confession might prevent or in some measure atone. The Gentleman was in great confusion what to say, but at last fully Confest the whole matter, that he with two more whom he Named, were won by the Uncle upon the promise of a Considerable reward to assist him in this Enterprize, that they pitch'd upon that Night rather than any other, because the Men-Servants would be abroad, and the House defenceless, that they had resolv'd to Murther the Young Lady and all the Family, for fear they should hereafter tell any Tales, that the Uncle was Shot at the door where he receiv'd his hurt by *Cratander*, and afterwards they came back and brought of his Body for fear of a discovery. Upon this the Gentleman was committed to *Winchester Gaol*; the other Two having some Notice of it fled. The Body of the Uncle was taken up, and found to be Shot in-

to the Heart with a Pistol Bullet which was there found, the Motive to so bloody and barbarous a design, (besides the instigation of the Devil and his own Covetousness) was generally suppos'd to be the Estate of the Young Lady which descended to him, who was her Father's Younger Brother, and she the only Child he left behind. The Young Lady considering how miraculously she had been preserv'd, and that next to Heaven she ow'd her Life to the Courage and Gallantry of Cratander, Frankly told him.

Sir, I never yet Enquired whether you was Married or no, nor was it a question ever in my Thoughts before, if you are not and will accept of my Person with the Fortune that attends it, I hope to be Happy in your Embraces.

Cratander, who little Expected that Fortune who had been alwayes a niggard to him, should now pour down her Blessings with so Lavish a Hand, in a Rapture of Bliss, cry'd out, O happy Cratander, for ever happy, Dear Madam I am yours for ever, and let the declining Sun tell the other part of the Globe how happy his Fellow Traveller is made to day; which she readily consented to, and they were immediately Married. within a Month after the Aunt dy-

ed for grief, and that Estate fell to Cratander in Right of his wife who was next Heyr at Law; Thus Lives he Master of a fair Estate which his courage and generosity most worthily deserves.

Lyfander ended his Story with the applause of the whole Company, and Melintus himself smiled at the Close, and said the Lady could do no less then Crown her Champion with the full Enjoyment of her Estate and Person.

Florimel whose turn it was to lead, desir'd to be Excus'd, that she had never a Story fit for such sober Company, but Melintus told her he would admit no Excuse, she was not so Airy, but she had some more serious Intervals, and he hop'd this was one of them. Well Sir, says Florimel, I'll take my Course and you must take your Chance.

NOVEL the Fourth,

By FLORIMEL.

CHarilus, (for under that Title I intend to disguise his proper English Name, out of
E 3 respect

respect to his Person and quality) was the Eldest
 Son of a Worthy Gentleman in *Oxfordshire*,
 and Heir to a fair Estate. His Father took parti-
 cular care in his Education, to furnish him with
 all the Accomplishments Suitable to his parts
 and Character, for Nature had been prodigal to
 him in all the gifts of mind, which she inherit'd
 in a Body of Elegant Composure and perfect
 Symmetry. After he was arriv'd to more Na-
 tural years, his Father brought him up to *Lon-
 den*, and enter'd him into the Society of *Graves-
 Inn*, where he not so much design'd him for a
 profound Lawyer, as to be Capable to serve his
 Country in that Station and Quality he was
 born in. For the first two years he was observ'd
 by all, for a Sedulous Student, and knew no
 other pleasures or diversions of the Town, then
 those of the play-House or Dancing-School,
 both which he rarely frequented, and then ra-
 ther out of Complaisance to his Friends then
 Inclination in himself. It fortun'd one day he
 was Invited abroad by some of his acquaintance
 to an Entertainment of the Spring-Gardens,
 where they were Engag'd to Meet some Ladies,
 to whom the last Night they had lost a Collati-
 on at a Game at Cards. *Charilus* who knew
 nothing of the design, was very ready to accept
 the Treat, and promis'd his Company, The
 Gentlemen

Gentlemen and Ladies met accordingly, the Entertainment was Noble and Costly, the Gentlemen Generous and Frank, and the Ladies fair and Obliging. *Charilus* whose heart was yet a stranger to Love, began of a sudden to feel its warmer powers, and himself discompos'd that he resolv'd all happiness into that of Love, and Condemned the ignorance of his past Life, who had only Studied Men and Books to know the worst half of Mankind, and neglected the fairer Sex, the Beauty and Glory of the whole Creation. Having thus but dip't his Foot in the water he found it so refreshing he resolv'd to wade farther and plunge himself into that Abyss of pleasures his Thirsty Soul so eagerly Coveted. These Ladies brought him into the Acquaintance of others, which they enlarg'd to their own Friends, till in a short time the day was not long enough for him to pay his Visits (which he punctually observ'd) to each expecting Mistress. About this time his Father dyed and left him a plentiful Estate with a considerable Sum of ready Money, which he improv'd to the better Conduct and more easy Management of his Amorous Intrigues, Numerous were the Female Clients of this young Lawyer, and the rather because he gave, but receiv'd no Fees, except those in Tail, besides the great advantage

tage he had of other Gentlemen in his comely
 personage and courteous behaviour, that he
 wounded more hearts in a week then he
 could Cure in a Month with his best per-
 formances. It Chanced one Evening being at a Ball
 in *Leicester-Fields* he saw the Beauteous *Bellinda*,
 whose powerful Charms would have Con-
 quer'd a more stubborn heart then *Charilus* wore,
 which by its frequent wounds was now grown
 soft and tender, and easily received the lightest
 Impression. *Bellinda* was now the only game
Charilus pursu'd, which he did so Vigorously,
 that he lost no opportunity he could improve,
 to render himself respected by her; He danced
 with her, and afterwards obtain'd the favour to
 wait upon her home in his own Coach, which he
 look'd upon as a promising earnest of a more
 ample reward in future. But after several Visits
 made with all passion and diligence as the Devil
 would have it, *Bellinda* prov'd of a different
 mould from other Ladies of her Sex, and Vertue
 had been Regent at her Nativity, above Beauty
 or pleasure. *Charilus* who had never met a re-
 pulsive like this in the whole Career of his hot
 desires; Intreated, Treated, presented, which
 the Lady still accepted upon honourable terms.
 When he found these Bait would not take, he
 offer'd Marriage as the last and most prevailing
 argument.

Bellinda

Bellinda told him, she was under no Vow to a single Life, but could dispose of her Person and Fortune as best pleas'd her self.

Charilus told her that was the only happiness he aim'd at, and would compleat immediately, but that he was under a Sacred Obligation not to Marry for some time which was now Expired to Six Months, that he did believe a contract in the Eye of Heaven, was as Obliging as the publick Solemnization of the Wedding, which was only requir'd by Law for the more known and certain descent of Estates. that if she pleas'd to consent to a Contract now, he would most assuredly Consummate the Marriage Six Months after.

With these and other arguments and the most Solemn protestations his quick Invention, could Furnish his Expressions with, he won the credulous *Bellinda*, who without any tedious or formal Ceremony of contract, took his word. *Charilus* immediately order'd private Lodgings for himself and *Bellinda*, where they liv'd with the highest content and Satisfaction, the six Months being expir'd, *Bellinda* remembered him of his promise; which he excus'd at that

time, as a thing that mig't be done any day, for that he was engaged in some Affairs of great Importance. Thus from time to time he had alwayes some Studied Answer to divert the discourse, which at last she found had no place in his intentions, and prest no farther. However no Persons liv'd more amicably and Friendly together, than I much question (were there not other more Substantial reasons to be given) whether an indissoluble Tye of two Persons, does not render their Converse more uneasy, and their whole Lives more querulous, then if it was only a Knot which each Person might unloose at pleasure. *Charlus* who was alwayes of a Generous and Noble Temper (nor was *Bellinda* parcemonious) having one day an Occasion for two hundred pounds, began to consider his present Circumstances and inspect his accompts for the last seven years, when first his Acquaintance commenc'd with *Bellinda*; He found his Estate much impair'd by the negligence of Tenants, his Rent fallen one third, and the Body of the Estate sunk under a weighty Mortgage, which still prey'd upon the Vitals, besides several Debts abroad, which would grow Clamorous and disreputable to him, and fifteen Hundred pounds, which he had receiv'd as *Bellinda's* Portion, was sometime since spent and forgot, the Unwelcome prospect he now had

of

of his Shatter'd Fortunes, rais'd different passions in his Labouring Breast, which after he had singly examin'd, he found himself only to blame, who either by his own Inadvertency or too much Confidence in others, had suffer'd his Estate to steal from him, without that prudent observance which might only preserve it. At last he resolv'd to disentangle himself from the trouble of Lands and Mortgages and part with all for a valuable consideration in Money over which he would keep a strick Eye. This he resolv'd and in part perform'd. He sold the whole Estate paid all his Debts, preserv'd his Reputation with the world, and had two Thousand pounds Overplus, to lay the foundation of a New fortune, which he promis'd himself might be easily done. But being naturally averse to business, & unwilling to descend below his former Grandeur, he so long defer'd it, that there was not Room left for that consideration, and Calling *Belinda* one Morning into his Closet he shew'd her a draught of his present Misfortunes and withall told her there was but Three hundred left of the last two Thousand pounds, that tho' he never was Ceremoniously Married to her, yet he look'd upon himself as oblig'd to provide for her; and not for that respect only, but as he ever had a most Sincere Love for her and that whatever distresses should befall him,

her

her Share should be the least in them. She began to Lament her great Unhappiness, who must shortly be Expos'd to the Injuries of the World, and the inclemency of Friends, when Charilus pray'd her patience to hear him a few words.

My Dear Bellinda, says Charilus, that my Afflictions have been hearty and unfeign'd you your self shall Judge, and think not that those vigorous Flames, which were first inkindled between us shall ever know decay or Period. Distress if rightly us'd, is but a poignant Sauce to whet our Cloy'd Appetites; Loves fire may be as intense in the heat, tho the Flames are not so active, but affliction Rowzes up the sleeping Embers and seems to give New Life and heat. But this I only speak as Consolatory, now to the point I intend; There is but one way to retrieve our drooping fortunes, and that with your approbation, I am resolv'd to prosecute, which is this, I have an Acquaintance in the City, a Person of Eminent Reputation, and my particular Friend, whose Assistance I am assur'd of in this
affair

affair; You shall take two hundred and fifty pounds of this Money, a Footman and Two Maids to wait upon you, and assume a Name both honourable and well known in the West of England, and pass for a Gentlewoman of the same Name, of a very considerable Fortune and at her own disposal. My Friend I spoke of, shall take you fair Lodgings in a Merchants House, give you the Character I mention'd, and assist you in the whole Conduct of this design. Very well, says Bellinda, now you have reduc'd me to nothing, you intend to set me up for a Fortune, like a Gilt of the Town -- Soft! says Charilus, you are too quick upon Me and overshoot the mark, this being done I'll go down into the Countrv, and reconcile myself to my Uncle, (who has a fair Estate, which I am next Heir at Law to, if he don't Cut of the Entail) and make use of my Courtship to you, and the hopes I have of your Favour to Cement the difference between us, and Engage his Interest for the obtaining your Love, of which I know how to make good Advantage.

Well then, and what must be the Issue of this? Why nothing Child but an Establish'd Felicity to us both in Matrimony, and the Securing my Uncles Estate, when ever Heaven shall call him into a better World.

I know not how (says Bellinda) to trust any affair where there is Matrimony in it, it is a word so abus'd upon all Occasions, and I my self have had some little Experience of it -- but I forbear, that's a tender part. But doe what you please you shall always find me of the same obsequious humour.

Charilus having fixt this point, and seen Bellinda placed at a Merchants House, (where she had the Reputation of a Fortune of Eight Thousand pounds and five Hundred li. per An.) and made some Visits to her, he went down into the Country where his Uncle receiv'd him as a Gentleman and a stranger, of whom he had not heard a word this seven years, but as Common fame reported him to his disadvantage. After he had Spent two dayes there, his Uncle came to a more easy familiarity, and enquir'd of his affairs blameing his Imprudent manage-
men

ment of his Estate and Riotous Expences, which *Charilus* in part Confess'd, and laid his finger where he thought his Uncles Eye had not yet discover'd the blemish. this he thought a proper Season to discourse him, of his Courtship to *Bellinda* (whose Name we will preserve tho' her Character's alter'd) he assur'd him of her fortune and his Interest with her, and that if he would please to afford him, the least Umbrage of his favour he did not question Success, and that he should be not only able to repair the Breaches in his Estate, but considerably advance it by this plentiful Addition. His Uncle told him he had in so high a Measure forfeited his Esteem with him, that he might reasonably imagine he suffer'd as much in the Opinion of others; That this would be a work of great difficulty, and beside fortunes now a days were grown so common and Cunning, that very often the most Judicious Eye, could not distinguish the real from the Counterfeit. After other reasonings on both sides the Uncle seem'd to be satisfied with *Charilus* his discourse of the fortune, and told him that if he would stay with him till Term which was not long, he would consider farther of it, and then he had buisness at London. During his stay in the Country, he wrote two Letters to *Bellinda*, which he Show'd
his

his Uncle and the Answers he receiv'd, by which he abated the difficulty of the Courtship so that now the great *Qære* was the certainty of the Estate and Money. At the beginning of Easter Term they both came up to *London*, and *Charilus* would have made a Visit the next Afternoon to his Mistress, but his Uncle told him the Taylor had been with him in the Morning, and promis'd him to bring his Clothes by twelve the next day, and that he had a mind to go along with him, if he would defer it to the next Afternoon, which *Charilus* consented to, and they accordingly went together. At the door he met with one of *Bellinda's* Maids, and ask'd if her Lady was within, who Answered, yes, pray Sweet heart, sayes he

Present my very humble Service to her, and let her Ladyship know my Name is Charilus, who beg the Honour to kiss her Hand.

The Maid went up with the Message, and presently down came her Woman with this Answer.

Sir, my Lady presents her Service to you, She's something indispos'd at this time and begs your pardon.

Upon which Charilus and his Uncle return'd

to their Lodging. Where the Uncle Umph'd, and Umph'd! And told *Charilus*, this was a Sort of a cold indifferent Complement, which he excus'd, that Ladies of that quality and fortune did often put on State to give a greater value and Esteem to their Character. However the Uncle was much disatisfied to see his Nephew thus Slighted and urg'd, that they should make a Second Visit by Nine next Morning, which he Excus'd as not the Mode of the Town to Visit Ladies, but in the Afternoon. Next day he was Impatient till the Clock had struck Three, that he might have a Sight of this Lady, after three they made a Second attempt to a Visit, and sent up the same Message as before, but the Uncle for fear of some excuse pull'd *Charilus* by the Sleeve and followed the Servant up stairs, where they met her returning to Invite them up. At their entrance into the Dining Room, they saw the Lady at the Table talking with a Gentleman, and a great heap of writings and parchments before them, upon which *Charilus* steps back, but the Lady very familiarly call'd him in, and desir'd his Friend would please to walk in too, which Invitation the Uncle had already prevented out of his great Curiosity to see the Lady; *Charilus* saluted her with all imaginable respect and ask'd pardon for interrupting of her

her in the midst of Buisness. She answer'd, it was no great Buisness, this Gentleman was her Lawyer, and they had been looking over some loose papers, at which she turn'd the Carpet gently over them, and told the Gentleman if he pleas'd to come at Ten in the Morning they would Inspect the rest, upon which he took his leave. Then she particularly apologiz'd for yesterdays rudeness as she pleas'd to call it, that indeed she had been busie all day with her Lawyer, was undrest, and understanding there was a stranger with you Sir, to *Charilus*, I was forc'd to use the frequent excuse of our Sex, which I beg this Gentlemans pardon for -- to the Uncle. which Complement after he had taken care to Answer -- She invited them to sit down, and put on a most facetious and obliging Countenance. Amongst other discourse *Charilus* ask'd if the Painter had finished her Ladyships Picture yet, yes Sir, sayes she, it hangs in the withdrawing Room — and rising up, pray Sir, sayes she, give me your Opinion, whether it is like or No, with that *Charilus* waited upon her into the Room, and the Uncle (thinking it but common manners to let the Lovers be private at their first Enterview after so long a Vacation) stayed behind; *Charilus* gently putting the door too, which the Uncle observing began

to peep under the Carpet, wh re he saw several Bonds, Letters, and one Mortgage for four Thousand pounds. After half an Hours stay the Lovers return'd, and the Lady afresh excused the incivility of her absence, to a Gentleman of his quality, whom she now understood to be a near Relation to this Worthy Gentleman her Friend; Mutual Complements having pass'd between the Uncle and Lady they sat down, and fell upon other discourses. After half an Hours stay longer *Charilus* and his Uncle took leave of the Lady, and in the next street parted; his Uncle telling him he would make a particular Enquiry for his own Satisfaction, and within two dayes he would resolve him what he would do. Two days after he came early into his Chamber with a Letter in his Hand and told him he had weigh'd all Circumstances of Truth and improbability, had made a most particular Scrutiny into the Ladies fortune, her Relations, and whatever was to be consider'd upon that point, and did agree with him, that she was a most Beautifull Vertuous Lady and Mistress of the same Estate in Money and Land (if not more) as he first reported to him. That he was withall very sensible that she had more than ordinary Respect for him by those familiar kindneses she Expressed, that de-
lay

lay was the greatest Enemy he could have in this affair, and whatever was resolv'd must be with Expedition. I do withall think it proper, sayes he, you should make her some Handsom present as either a Locket of Diamonds, a fair Necklace of Pearl, or what you think is most Modish and acceptable, Sir, says *Charilus*, I humbly thank you, you certainly advise the best Method that can be; yes, says the Uncle, interrupting of him, and you ought likewise to appear in a fine Gilt Chariot drawn by two *Flanders*, these are very taking with Young Ladies, they were so in my time, yes Sir, sayes *Charilus*, but my present Stock of Money will not reach so far, and I am unwilling to run in debt to Tradesmen it may prove a disadvantage to me, if known, you are in the right says his Uncle, and I did fear as much, and for that reason I have here writ a Letter to *Bedley* my Steward, to furnish you with Eight Hundred, or a Thousand pounds, which you would rather have, and do you take it, and go down into the Country with all speed, if he has not so much in his Hands let him raise it of the Tenants, but I expect, Nephew, you shall return it to me Six Months after Marriage: which *Charilus* submissively promis'd to do, and to take Post immediately into the Country. *Charilus* overjoy'd at this great Blessing

Blessing of fortune beyond his utmost Expectation, Stole a Visit first to *Bellinda*, and told her all his Uncle had said, shewed the Letter, and after they had Congratulated each other in this happy Success, took leave for the Countrey promising all speed in his return. In the Afternoon the Uncle made a Visit to the Lady, and talking Jocosely of Marriage, made his address to her, & told her, if she could comply with a little disproportion of Age, no Person had more Vigorous Flames, or a more passionate affection to her Service then himself, that as for his Nephew, to whom he believ'd she had some respect, he was a wild Extravagant Young Man, that he who had already ruin'd his own fortune, would be unsafely trusted with anothers, and an Empire in the Cup of a Voluptuary would be as soon quast of, as that Narrow Spot left by paternal care, which his Riorous humour had already Spent, and yet not quench'd his Thirst. The Lady was very much Surpriz'd at his discourse, and told him she rather expected he would have been an Advocate in his Nephews behalf, then have Furnish'd her with such powerfull Arguments o^f disesteem. The Uncle made his Attaqus so close and quick, that she began seriously to consider of her own Circumstances, and at last told him, it was a matter of so great Mement he could

could not reasonably expect a present Answer. After some other discourses to the same purpose the Uncle took his leave, promising to wait upon her the next day. Upon the Second visit he presented her with a Necklace of Pearl, and a Gold Watch studded with diamonds, which he beg'd of her to accept, and in the close of all told her he had a clear Estate of a Thousand pounds *per Annum* besides Money abroad, that he would settle Six Hundred pounds a year in Joynture, and what more she pleas'd of her own fortune. The Lady thank'd him for his great Respects to her, and those Generous offers he was pleas'd to make, that was she determined, as she was yet no wayes inclin'd to Marry; She should entertain as worthy and deserving thoughts of himself as of any other Gentleman in *England*. The Esquire, for to that Title his Character is now grown up, looking upon this last Answer to be as absolute a Surrender as would Consist with her Modesty, told her that from the first Minute he had the happiness to see her, he was struck with Love and admiration, that he designedly sent his Nephew into the Country upon an *April* Errand, that he might have the freer access to her Person, and then earnestly prest the Wedding might be ever before his return.

At last She told him, *within two dayes*
He should have the Result of her more seri-
ous Consideration.

Belinda was now more pos'd then ever
 which way to Steer, the Uncles great kind-
 nesses to *Charilus* was but Counterfeit, but to her
 reall, that it was much better to save one, then
 that they both should perish, nay, this might
 preserve both. for upon this Marriage she hop'd
 to be in a Condition to serve him; Nor was
 she so much too blame who had been ruin'd by
 one Branch of the Family, if she prudently En-
 deavour'd her safety by another, and the Un-
 cle repair those Breaches the Nephew had
 made, Thus she ponder'd the Morning before
 she expected his return, and at last resolv'd to
 Marry him, but first secure the Joynture. In the
 Afternoon came the Esquire, and after a Cun-
 ning Harangue of reason all in his own Com-
 mendation why she should Marry him, she declar-
 ed her consent, That as to matter of Joynture,
 She was well satisfied with the six Hundred
 pounds a year at present, and what part of her
 own fortune he would put into her Hands,
 should be as he pleas'd at his own time. Thus
 the Bargain was made, and her Lawyer who was
 prepar'd before Hand, sent for and order'd to
 make the Joynture upon such particulars and
 to be ready upon *Thursd^y* Morning by Eight,
 when

when the Joynture was Seal'd and the Espousals Consummated. *Charilus* came late to Town the same Night, to his Uncles Lodgings, with a return of Eight Hundred pounds, and waiting his coming in till it grew late, went to Bed, in the Morning early he ask'd what time his Uncle came in, and if he was yet stirring. The Servant told him he did not come in all Night, nor had he seen or heard from him since he last went out the Morning before. *Charilus* was very much troubled at this, fearing some Misfortune had befallen him (which was true enough, tho' not in his Sense) but not knowing where readily to find him, he went first to give *Bellinda* a Visit, and acquaint her with the Joyfull News of the Eight Hundred pounds, when offering to go into the Bed-Chamber her Maid would have stopped him, which he took little Notice of, but prest in, and saw some Body in Bed with the Lady, Upon which in the greatest rage and fury he drew his Sword, and Swore he would be the death of that Villain who had thus abus'd him. The Uncle crept under the sheet for fear expecting the Sword either in his heart or Guts at each Oath he Swore, *Bellinda* was strangely Surpriz'd, and Shrick'd out for help, whilst *Charilus* discharg'd whole Valleys of Oaths and Curses on those two miserable Wretches, and violently

violently pulling down the Cloaths, discovered his own Dear Uncle in Bed with his Mistress. *Charilus* at this was no less astonished, then they affrighted, when *Bellinda* interpos'd, and desired his patience but for two words; Sir, says she, I beseech you Compose your self, and be not angry with this Gentleman or my self, for we are Man and Wife. This was so amazing a Story he did not know what to answer to it, but after a little pause, considering it as a truth, there might be a good improvement made of it, he fell into a violent passion with his Uncle, call'd him all the infamous Names he could invent, and with the point of his Sword threatned immediate Vengeance upon that false Heart, which had so basely and Treacherously supplanted him, After his passion was grown more cool, the Uncle offered terms of reconciliation, and acknowledged the hainousness of his crime in betraying that trust he had repos'd in him and Robbing him of a Mistress of so considerable a Fortune, for all which he was ready to make present Satisfaction. The terms agreed upon were these, that *Charilus* should have the Eight Hundred pounds now in his Hands, and his Uncle make over to him four Hundred pounds a year out of his Estate, and put him into immediate possession of it.

in consideration of the Injury he had done him in the loss of his Mistress, all which the Uncle performed that day according to the Tenor of the Articles. Within a Month after he discover'd some part of his own Errour, as to the mistake of the Fortune, but nothing farther, however they went down into Oxfordshire together, where in less then a Twelve-Month he dyed, and Bellinda's Joynture being an En-tail'd Estate came into Charilus his Hands, who in Memory of former kindnesses was highly Generous and Noble to her.

Here Sir, says Florimel, should I conclude with my story, but that I have something to say by way of Consolation to you Melintus, and therefore beg leave to carry on Bellinda's Character one step farther.

This Lady Sir, after the death of her Husband came up to London, and 'tho she had for some years of her acquaintance with Charilus resided here, yet was she seldom abroad, and not at all known to the Gallants of the Town, so that upon her return she pass'd for a New Face, and was generally thought to be a Maid.

Amongst other Sparks who made search up and down for fresh Beauties, that
Match

Matchless piece of Chivalry, Sir —
 was one, you all know, who was the Per-
 son that first discover'd that Notable way of
 affronting Ladies of Quality by breaking
 their Windows with Crown pieces; It
 was his fortune to Meet with this Lady
 and after some necessary Treats to intro-
 duce a more familiar acquaintance, he fell
 Smart upon her, but all in vain, her Honour
 was Lodg'd in an impregnable Fortrefs;
 when that would not do, he betook himself
 to his last Remedy, Marriage; Offer'd a
 fair Joynture and whatever else should be
 thought convenient, this at last was appro-
 ved of, but the Knight was mistaken in his
 Measures she would yeild up no part of the
 premises till the Joynture was Seal'd, and
 the Marriage compleated; which, rather
 than lose his longing he consented to. A short
 time after the Wedding, he ask'd her what
 reason she imagin'd more particularly In-
 fluenced him to Love her, when she could
 not Guess, he told her, it was for her strict
 Vertue and Chastity, for he had made a Re-
 solution never to Marry any whom he could

prevail upon without it, and that is the reason that tho' I have Courted Hundreds I was never Married till now; Why look you Sir says she, I had that Trick put upon me once too, but I was resolv'd I would never be Catch'd Twice with the same Bait.

Now Sir, as to the application, why should you be in the Dumps and Melancholy; hide your self from your Friends, and call those Stars, you ought to Bless by all the Naughty Names you can think of, when who knows but that beloved she might have prov'd another Bellinda, and take her at the best -- but with your permission I have done Sir.

The Company all Laugh'd heartily, and Melintus could not forbear a publick Smile, I knew says he, we should have one Roguish story or another, I expected it Florimel, but above all commend me to your close, where you come off with a Rellish indeed — Parmenio, says Melintus, I think it now falls into your division, pray will you oblige us with a story that may

Temper

*Temper the heat and passion of Florimels;
and Compose us to our wonted Gravity.*

NOVEL the Fifth,

By PARMENIO.

A Gentleman who had been formerly a Merchant in the City of London, and acquir'd a considerable Estate, withdrew into the Country, having Spent his younger years in the Noise and hurry of Business, resolv'd now to enjoy the fruits of his Labours in quiet, and Gratifie himself with Solitude and Retirement; having a fair House in *Hartfordshire*; he inclin'd to fix there, where he was eminently hospitable to the Gentry, and Charitable to the poor. But that he might not be out of all concern of business in the world like an idle person; he still kept some Ventures abroad, which he call'd the peors Stock, in which and all other his endeavours, providence blest his Industry with that constant success, that he us'd famili-

arly to say he grew Rich in spite of his Teeth, for if he shut Money out at the door, it would come in at the Window. This Gentleman at his death left only one Child a Daughter call'd *Joanna*, to whom he gave a very great Fortune, and committed the care of her Person and management of her Estate to two Gentlemen her Guardians. She was now about Eight years old when she desir'd she might (as she usually did once a year) go see her Uncle, a Gentleman of fair Reputation and good Estate in *Essex*, which they granted, and sent her over attended with two Servants. After she had been there a Month, her Uncle who was a passionate Man, catching her in some fault threatned to whip her; She farther provoking him with some Scurvy reply, he did so, at which time as she cryed out, was heard to say by some of the Neighbours, *O pray Uncle don't kill Me*, which neither he or any of the Family took much Notice of at that time. The next Morning early she stole out of the House, and after she had wander'd some Hours not knowing whether to go, met with a Company of *Gipsies* who took her up, made much of her, changing her Cloths and staining her Complexion, brought her with them in few dayes to *London*, and from thence went their Rounds into *Hampshire*,
Wiltshire,

Wiltshire, and about the Country. The Uncle missing his Niece next day, made all possible Enquiry after her, sent to all the Neighbouring Villages, search'd all the publick Roads, but could not receive any account of her. He next sent into *Hartfordshire* to her Guardians to know if she was return'd home, but meeting with no satisfaction, concluded that some young Gentleman who knew she would be a great fortune had Stole her, and carried her far away to some distant County where she lay conceal'd. This the Guardians believed too, till some of the Neighbors at their Gossiping, were prattling what they heard others say, and began to wish seriously that it was not too true, especially when they consider'd that if the Child dyed in her Minority, the whole Estate would descend to the Uncle. This was buzz'd about till at last it reach'd the Guardians Ears, who making more particular enquiry into the truth of it, were inform'd by some of the Neighbours that the Night before the Child was missing, they heard her cry out most lamentably, *pray Uncle don't kill Me*, this they considered as an odd Circumstance to happen just the Night before, and asked the Persons who thus informed, if they could safely take their Oaths of it, and would do so before a Magistrate, who said, yes,

it was all true and nothing but the truth. After some deliberation they acquainted the Uncle what the Neighbours said, and how nearly it did touch his Reputation now, and might his Life hereafter, if his Niece was not found. He told them he was altogether innocent of any Injury done to her, nor did he remember that ever she said so, tho' he own'd he whipt her severely, which was for telling a notorious Lye, and using some other indecent expressions, which he thought she deserved to be Corrected for. Upon this all the ponds and Rivers were search'd, and a considerable reward promis'd to any Person, who could give an account of her alive or dead. No News being heard of her, the Neighbours began to Grumble and said, that the Guardians and Uncle had Complotted to Murder the Child and Share her Estate: This being now grown a publick discourse in the Country to the great disadvantage of their Reputation, who before were Esteem'd as Gentlemen of Honour and integrity; They resolv'd to probe the bottom of this cause, and prosecute the Uncle as far as the Law directed them. Accordingly they went over into *Essex*, and sent for him to a Gentlemans House who was his Neighbour, and a Justice of the peace. Being altogether, the Guardians complain'd

to the Justice of this report, and desir'd him that he would take Cognizance of it as far as the Law required, that if possible their Reputations, and the Gentlemans might be preserved free from such an undeserved calumny. The Justice sent for the witnesses, who Swore positively that on such a Night, which was the immediate Night before she was missing, they heard her cry out with a lamentable voice, *pray Uncle don't kill Me.* Upon which the Justice bound the Uncle in a Recognizance of two Thousand pounds to appear at the next Assize, and the Guardians in a bond of five Hundred to prosecute the Uncle. In this Interval the Uncle having used all the probable means for a discovery that humane Wit could imagine, but not being able to make any, began to think what was to be done, the time of the Assize drew on, and then he should certainly be Indicted for the Murder of *Joanna*, nor had he any way to clear his Innocence against such Circumstantial Evidence, but by a down-right Negation, which though some of his Friends might Credit, would yet take no place in a Court of Judicature. Having thus considered the difficulty of his Case, he at last resolved thus. In his search after *Joanna*, he had found a poor Mans Daughter in another County, who both in Age, Features,

and Complexion, so much resembled her that at first sight he thought she had been the real same, now sayes he to himself, if I can get this Girl of her Parents, and dress her up in the same habit, *Joanna* wore, the very Guardians shall not distinguish her from their own Pupil, she will appear so like the very same, nor have I any other course but this to preserve my self, he accordingly did so, and for a Sum of Money bought the Girl of her poor Relations, diligently instructed her in the part she was to act, who being of a ripe Wit and very apprehensive had her Lesson to a hair. A day or two before the Assize, he gave out he had by great fortune found his Niece, brings her home to his House with her real Father and Mother, who gave a Satisfactory account to all persons how accidentally they found her in a wood almost Starv'd, and she not remembring from whence she had wandred they Entertained her amongst their own Children. The Girl own'd how she Stole away for fear her Uncle should whip her again as he threatned, all which Romance hung so well together, that the Guardians believ'd her the same, and no body question'd the truth. At the Assize he was call'd to appear which accordingly he did, the Judge asked him for his Niece *Joanna* if she was found yet, Yes, my Lord, sayes the

the Gentleman, she is in Court, *Very well*, sayes my Lord, produce her, and bid the Guardians appear, accordingly they did, and the Counterfeit Joanna, *Are you satisfied*, to the Guardians sayes the Judge, *that this is your Pupil, the Daughter of Mr. — with whom you were left in trust?* Yes, my Lord, said the Guardians, After a farther account how she was found the Judge order'd their Recognizance should be withdrawn, and the Uncle discharged. It happened that an old Woman who was in Court about other business, hearing what a Bustle had been made about her young Mistress, and that she was found again, as they came out of Court crowded to see her, and looking full upon her, believed it to be the same, but the Girl not taking Notice of her, She cryed out, *O Mistress you don't know Me*, upon which She answer'd presently, no, what sayes She, don't you know old Nurse? I am sure you are not the same then, upon this the Girl was startled, the Guardians made a stop and asked her how she came to forget Nurse so soon, she not giving a present answer, they began to suspect something and brought her again into Court and Nurse with her.

The old Woman said, *She did believe*

it.

it had been the same at first, but upon review she much question'd it, that she herself had Nurs'd her till she was almost four years old, and if it was her Mistress she had a Scar upon her left Arm above the Elbow.

The Judge ordered they should look upon her Arm, which they did, and reported there was no Scar above but one below the Elbow, upon this it was generally believ'd she was the same, and all things set right again. However the Judge seem'd more dissatisfied then before, ordered the Uncle to withdraw, and examined the Girl, Afterwards the Man apart, who said he had found her in a Wood, and then the woman, and here he found they all disagreed in one point or other, at length by crossing the account of the Man and Wife, and then considering that both the Guardians and Nurse agreed the true Joanna, must needs have remembred her Nurse, since it was not a Twelve-Month ago since she saw and particularly knew her, they agreed it was yet a Cheat, which the Woman for fear of punishment, first Confest, and then her husband own'd it, and lastly the Girl; They proved the Receipt of so much Money at such a time, proved by several neighbours, who had known this Girl
for

for five or six years together, that she alwayes was look'd upon and reputed as their own Child and alwayes liv'd with them. Upon this discovery an Indictment was preferr'd against the Uncle, for the Murder of his Neece *Joanna*, but he having no proof to clear himself by, and this appearing with so foul a Face against him, he was Condemn'd to be hang'd, and was within a Week after Executed. It fortun'd about nine years after at the Summer Assize at *Nottingham*, two young Gentlemen who were lately call'd to the Bar, whereof the Judges Son was one, walking out early one Morning in the fields they saw a whole Covie of Gipsies under a Hedge, when they came near, two of them stept out, and in their Cant told them a great deal of good fortune by looking into their Hands, and viewing the lines of the Face as they pretend, upon which one Gentleman threw them a Shilling, the other call'd them idle Whores, and said they deserv'd to be whipt for publick Cheats, upon which one of them a tall black Girl told him, he ought not to despise a Gipsie for he should Marry one before he was Three Months older, at this the Gentlemen fell a laughing and entertain'd them with other like discourse; when they came home one of them lost his gold Watch, and another had lost all his

his Money. They began to grow angry to be thus Cheated, and getting a Constable very luckily, met with these two going off another way; They charg'd them with the Watch and Money, which they as peremptorily denyed, upon which the Constable brought them along into open Court which was then sitting, upon Examination they denyed the Fact, nor could they upon search find either about them. However, the Judge ordered them to be soundly lash'd for Vagrants, and sent out of Town, as the Constable was taking them away, the Gentleman who was the Judges Son, call'd out Josely to the Constable, pray favour the black woman, for she tells me, I shall Marry a Gipsie within these three Months; which his Father overhearing call'd them back again, and ask'd them

How long they had pretended to telling of Fortunes, I had thought, sayes the Judge, all your Trade had been Picking of Pockets; No, and please you my Lord sayes the black-Woman, my profession is only telling of Fortunes, I never understood nor practised such unlawfull Arts, at which the Court laugh'd. My Lord then ask'd

ask'd (seeing her a good favour'd young Woman, and so quick in her Answers) *what Country Woman she was, to which she said, she thought Hartfordshire. Then he askt, if she was born a Gipsy; She said No, but she was as good, for she had been Nine years Apprentice to a Gipsy. At which he ask'd her, if she had e're a Christian Name, yes, my Lord, sayes she, I think so, for my Name is Joanna, the Judge hearing the Name Joanna recollected himself, and remembred the Story of the Essex Gentleman, who was by him Condemn'd for Murdering his Neece of that Name. He then asked her, if she had ever been in Essex, or had any Relations there; She said, not since she was very Young, which was at the time she med with the Gipsys first, and then she had an Uncle there, who used her very hardly, and so she ran away from him, and was never there since, nor never Enquired after him. Upon this he concluded her to be the same Person, and call'd to the Constable*

stable and told him, he should not let them be whipt, but carry them home to his own House and Entertain them there, till the Court was up, and then he should receive farther Orders. The whole Court at this began to Wonder, and believe one or both of them to be Gentlewomen of good Families, nor did they spare telling the young Gentleman that for ought they knew it might be his Fortune indeed to Marry a Gipsy, if this Young Woman should prove to be a Person of Quality and Estate, which fell out even so, for the Assizes being over, the Judge who had a Seat in *Hartfordshire*, and had known her Father formerly, brought her up in his Coach, and presented her to the Guardians who own'd her to be the same Person, which the Nurse and all her Surviving Relations Confirm'd. At the same time his Lordship, who knew her to be a very great Fortune, propos'd a Match between his Son and her which she Franckly consented to, and

and was presently after Solemniz'd.

Thus ended *Parmenio* when the whole Company Bow'd their respects, and were all extreemly pleas'd with the fortune of the Gipsy, But *Sir*, sayes *Melintus*, *I could have wish'd you had carried a lighter Hand over the hard fate of the Uncle, whom I pity with all my Heart. Sir*, sayes *Parmenio*, *I could have wish'd it had not been true, but as it is so under unquestionable Evidence, I durst not give my Hand the Liberty of one Sweetning Stroke.*

Now, *Madam*, sayes *Melintus* to *Evadne*, we must beg the next favour from your fair Hands, No *Sir*, said she, your power with me alwayes Commands.

NOVEL the Sixth

By EVADNE.

O*rithia* the Beauty of her Sex and Glory of her Age, was the Daughter of an English Earl, of an Antient Family, whose Noble Acts in Chivalry stands first upon Record in our most early Histories, Her great Wit and Excellent Sweetness of Temper obliged all who had the Honour of her Acquaintance, which every Gentleman both Courted, and admir'd. And if amongst those Thousands who were ready to Sacrifice their bleeding hearts to the fair *Orithia*, any was thought to have a more particular interest in her Favour, it was the Lovely *Philanthus*, who was only
able

able to make a Reprisall of Heart's
amongst the Ladies, for those *Orithia*
Captivated from the Men. *Philanthus*
his Family was somewhat inferiour, but
much more Opulent, he being the El-
dest Branch of it, who for the great Ser-
vice of his Father, (who lost his Life in
the Wars against the *French*) had the
Honour of Knight-hood Confer'd up-
on him, whilst yet a School-boy, by his
Gracious Prince. The Assiduous Ad-
dress of *Philanthus*, his kind Reception,
and more intimate familiarity oblig'd
us all to believe he would be that happy
Conquerour, who should carry off this
Noble prize from the Rest of the des-
pairing world. But amongst those
Stars which influence the great affairs
of Love, some are kind and propitious,
whilst others infect their good intents
by their poysonous Neighbourhood,
some such unhappy Conjunction there
was which suddenly blasted *Philanthus*
his blooming hopes, rob'd him of all his
Glorious

Glorious Expectations and left him the Pity or the Scorn of his Rivals.

The *Count de Montalto* who was Ambassadour from the Duke of *Savoy*, at the English Court, being shortly to return, and having often admired the Beautifull *Orithia*, as the most lovely Creature his Eyes yet beheld, made his private Addresses to her, and without the knowledge or Consent of her Relations was Married to her.

My Lord, her Father, and all her Friends were extreamly concern'd at it, there not being any but who gave *Philanthus* the Encouragement to hope he should be that happy Person, nor had he any reason to question *Orithia's* Favour, till the Count made his applications, and then the Ambition of being so great a Countess soon prevail'd over the more easy powers of Love. Within four days after, *Orithia* went along with the Count her Husband for *Savoy*, without seeing or taking leave of any of her Friends,

Friends or Relations. This sudden Marriage with the Count had at first extremely incensed my Lord her Father, but considering she had Honourably disposed her self, without the Charge of a weighty portion, which his Circumstances could not so conveniently spare, he now called that prudence and discretion, which before he thought a rash and inconsiderable Action. After her Arrival at *Savoy*, for three years she liv'd as happy & as great as heart could wish, the Count her Husband lov'd her above all the World, and his Estate, which was very considerable, was absolutely at her Command. No Empress, tho' she might have more large Dominions, was better belov'd, or more willingly obeyed then she was. It happened that the Duke of *Savoy* making Wars upon some of the Neighbouring Princes appointed the *Count de Montalto* General of his Army, which was an Honour he could not refuse, though with some regret

regret he parted from the Arms of his beloved *Orithia*. That he might leave the affairs of his Family under the better Government, he appointed three of his Friends as Commissioners to take an account of his Rents, assist the Countess upon all occasion with their Advice, and manage all his business to his greatest advantage and reputation. To these he added one more, who was the honest *Sabrino* as he used to call him, a Gentleman of some Relation to the Count, but his intimate Friend and Confident. The Duke being now with his Army, and not expected back till a peace was concluded, which was yet but uncertainly discours'd ; *Sabrino*, who had the largest Commission of any of the rest, and much more respected, considered that this was the only opportunity his heart could wish for, to compleat those desires he had so long languished under. Accordingly one day coming up to the Countess, as if upon
some

some Urgent business, he found her alone in her Closet. where without any regard to the Honour of the Count, the Vertue of the Lady, which he had no reason to suspect, or to the Modesty and good manners in himself, of which he ought to have had some share, he discover'd his unlawfull passion, which she received with that abhorrence and detestation that he was well assured he was now undone for ever, if he did not preserve himself by being the first Accuser, tho' he had nothing to Charge the spotless *Orithia* with, but what was false as Hell or Devils could invent. However envenom'd malice will want neither Instruments or Methods to perfect its Revenge; tho' what wrong had *sabrino* received? He first gives the affront, and then demands Satisfaction, and first Tempts the Lady with his lascivious address', then calls himself injur'd, so great a Crime is it to be good and Vertuous in the prospect of those who

are wicked and debauch'd. *Sabrino*, that he might lose no opportunity, sent presently to the three Commissioners to meet him at his own Chamber, where he told them,

He had a secret of that importance to communicate to them and of that strange Surprise, that he wanted words to express the present Horrour of his thoughts ; I have for some time suspected, and I wish I could say I did yet but suspect, Oh shall I speak it ! The Fidelity and Chastity of the Countess-- upon which one of them told him, Sir, I will as soon beleive, the Glorious Cherubins may be tainted in their pure Angelic Natures, as that any Temptation of dishonesty hath or ever shall assail the Vertue of that immaculate Lady. Oh Sir, says Sabrino, be not too forward I once thought so too, but I am afraid I shall be able to convince you sooner then you or I could wish for. In the Interim pray make your own Observations, and let this pass no farther.

Sabrino

Sabrino had a Nephew a proper young Gentleman, who had been Page to the Count in *England*, and since his return, was prefer'd to be Gentleman Usher to the Countess; This Gentleman he sent for privately to his Chamber, and told him he understood what a particular kindness the Countess had for him, and that now was the time for him to make his fortunes in the absence of his Lord. The young Gentleman told him he did not understand his meaning; O Nephew (said he) are you so short sighted, why the Countess is in love with you above all the World, and wants nothing but an opportunity, to compleat yours and her own happiness in Bed, which I have promised her this Night: Wherefore you must in the Evening pretend to go Sick to Bed, and then undress to your Gown, and Steal into the Countess's Chamber, and lye under the Bed till she gives you Notice to come forth, but be sure no Body sees you enter her Chamber.

Chamber, if they do, make some excuse and go out again and so wait till you have an opportunity : pray Uncle, (sayes the young Gentleman) did the Countess her self bid you tell me thus ? I, I, She her self bid me, and said that very suddenly she would make you Gentleman of the Horse. The innocent Gentleman discovered not the Snares his Uncle had laid for him, but in the Evening accordingly did so : after *Sabrino* had been at his Chamber and found him not there, nor about the House, he concluded he was then safely Lodg'd under the Bed, and a little before the Countess went to her Chamber, sent for the Commissioners, and told them, *he was inform'd that the Countess's Gallant was to be with her that Night, but who he was that he could not tell* ; *Sabrino* and the rest concluded to pretend some extraordinary business, to be dispatched that Night and to desire to speak with her as soon as her Women had left her, and then if there was any Gallant,

Gallant, they should certainly discover him, if not give the Countess no reason to suspect their design, Accordingly they did so, and coming softly up stairs knock'd at her Chamber door, an old Gentlewoman (who had formerly been her Nurse) lay in the Chamber with her and was going into Bed, when she heard some Body knock at the Chamber door, She asked who was there, And their business, to which one of them answered, we are the Commissioners and want to speak one word with her Honour upon Urgent business, which was forgot before, and must be dispatched this Night. She acquainted the Countess with what they said, who ordered her to let them in. As they were by her Bed-side discoursing with her, *Sabrina* cries out, *I, here he is, here's the Rogue,* and pulls his Nephew by the heels from under the Bed, and calling him *Rogue, Villain and Traytor,* to abuse so good a Lord, struck him through the heart with his Sword,

before he could speak one word to Vindicate himself or his Ladies Honour. It was now in vain for the Countess to Endeavour to purge her self from a Crime which appeared against her by so Notorious an Evidence, tho' she did in the presence of several Worthy persons take the Sacrament upon it, that as she never had been Guilty against her Husbands Bed, so she knew nothing of that Persons being there; that it was all the malicious Contrivance of *Sabrino* (whose unlawful desires she had refused with Scorn and contempt) that had now plotted this Revenge to Rob her of her life and Honour at the same time. This some believ'd, who thought the Countess to be as uncorrupt as Vertue it self. But others said here's plain demonstration against her, and she who dares commit Adultery, will not stick at a lye to defend her Guilt. The Commissioners writ a Letter to the Count to acquaint him with this unhappy News, in
 which

which they gave a most particular account, and in the Close highly Commended the Fidelity and Justice of *Sabrino*, who seeing his Honour abused, would not spare his nearest Relation. The Count was astonished at the News above any Misfortune that could have happened, and notwithstanding this demonstration, as they call'd it in their Letter, he put a greater Confidence in the Justice and integrity of the Countess, then in all their Solemn protestations. And as he sent them word

He was extreamly troubled for the Countess that she should lye under so heavy an Aspersion, which if he did not believe the World would, and therefore with prayers for her deliverance (if Innocent) did resign her up to the Law, so he should have been much better Satisfied in the Guilt of his Wife, if Sabrino had spar'd his Kinsmans Life, in that Transport of rage in which he kill'd him.

Upon the Receipt of this Letter the Commissioners.

Commissioners, (as the Custom is there) disposed the Countess into a Nunnery, where She is to continue a year and a day, and if in that time no Champion appears to justify her Innocence against her Accuser, she is upon the last day brought into the List appointed for the Combatants (if there be any) and there burnt at a Stake, which death she Legally suffers if her Champion has the worst of it. The Countess was highly sensible of this as the greatest affliction that ever befell her, yet her own Innocence, and the Satisfaction that arose from thence made the distress much more easy and supportable. The Count was still Engag'd in the Wars, and the Countess had now been three quarters of a year a Prisoner in the Nunnery, and no Person appear'd in her behalf to Vindicate her Honour and Virtue. She now considered that the small remainder of her Life would soon be gone, and unless some Gentleman would Entertain such Honourable

nourable thoughts of her, as to believe her Guiltless, and Engage his Life to preserve hers, she must certainly suffer, and as no Person had yet offer'd himself, so was she altogether at a loss where to find that Gallant Friend. At last amongst other English Gentlemen who had been formerly her Friends and Acquaintance, She fixt upon *Philanthus*, but at the same time Corrected her Error in thinking that he who believed himself the most disobliged of all Mankind, should now hazard his Life to Vindicate her Reputation, No, certainly he would be pleas'd to hear of her Miseries, and rejoyce to see her proud heart now humbled under the deepest afflictions, but on the other Hand considering him as a Gentleman, a Person of unquestionable Courage and Gallantry, and one whose former affections were most sincerely devoted to her Service, he would rather Court such an opportunity to lay an everlasting obligation on her

which all her Treasury of thanks and Gratitude should be too poor to recompence. And this took place in her resolution; Accordingly She writ a Letter to *Philanthus*, and sent it by a Gentleman who had been formerly her Servant, with orders where to find or Enquire for him at *London*, and to deliver him that Letter, receive his Answer, and return with all speed. *Philanthus* who had still the same respect and love for *Orithia* as would consist with Honour, having read the Letter, was extreemly troubled at it, but at the same time being Ruin'd himself in his Fortunes, his mind sunk under the load of miseries which oppress him, writ back a most passionate Letter of excuse, with which she was no less affected as well for his as her own sake. *Orithia* Spent her short time (which now wanted but a week of the fatal day) in recommending her Soul to Heaven, wholly despairing of any relief on Earth. *Philanthus* having
since

since seriously considered the present distress of the Countess, and that she must for ever suffer in her Memory, which to all Noble Spirits is Ten times worse then a Thousand deaths, and that though in his excuse to her he had not put his own interest or business into the Scale to ballance against her Life and Honour; But that strange and unexpected disasters had reduced him to that mean degree of want that he was not able to Equip himself for the Service; Yet this from a Generous Spirit was mean and pitifull, that however his Friends would not assist him here, he could want nothing there of Horse or Arms a *Cavalier* could ask. After he had ponder'd a while on this thought he went to a Gentleman of his intimate acquaintance, shew'd him the Letter, and beg'd of him to furnish him with Moneys for that design which he did, and *Philanthus* a short time after went privately over to *Savoy*. Being arrived

at *Turenne* he Enquired at what Nunnery the Countess *de Montalto* was, and what the general opinion were concerning her Guilt or Innocence; Understanding the Nunnery was Thirty Miles from *Turenne*, and that all Persons spöke well of her & did believe her falsely accused, he went directly thither. Being come within Four Miles of the Nunnery, by the side of a great Wood, he spyed a Hermits Cell, at which alighting, he ask'd of the Holy Father, what the discourse was about the Countess, he told him that in a fair Plain before the Nunnery, she was to suffer to Morrow Morning before Eleven of the Clock, if there was no Person found so hardy to fight her Accuser, nor did we yet hear of any Champion who had appear'd in her behalf. Upon which he told him, he had a very great desire to see her before she suffer'd, but he suppos'd it would be very difficult to obtain that Favour unless he had on a Religious habit, and if he would do him that kindness to lend him his

Weeds

*Weeds, he would walk over that Afternoon
 and return in the Evening, and leave his
 Horse and Armour there till he came back;*
 the Hermit very readily agreed to it,
 then *Philanthus* (who spoke *Italian* well)
 put on his *Weeds*, and in all Respects
 appear'd to be a grave Religious Hermit,
 having a long Beard and all things
 answerable. He was now Arriv'd
 at the Nunnery, and out of Respect to
 his habit (for Hermits are there had in
 great Veneration) was immediately
 conducted into the Countesses Cham-
 ber, where entring, those Nuns who
 were attending upon her withdrew, that
 she might have the more freedom of dis-
 course with this Religious Father. He
 stay'd with her three Hours, and was
 as well satisfi'd of her Innocency and
Sabrina's Roguery as his heart could
 wish. Asking her, if she had no hopes of any
 Friend to appear in the Lists to Morrow
 on her behalf, She said, No, She never sent
 but to one English Gentleman, and his Mis-
 fortune

fortunes happen'd at the same time to be almost as great as her own. When he took his leave of the Countess, she pull'd off a Diamond Ring from her Finger, and told him, *Holy Father, I am oblig'd to you above what I am able to Express for your Prayers, and good Advice, I have nothing of Worldly Goods left Me to dispose of but this Ring, which was given Me by my Brother in England, a little before I Married into this Country, I pray accept it, and keep it for my sake.* The ~~Hermit~~ receiv'd it with all Thankfulness, and taking his leave, burst out into tears to see so great a Beauty reduc'd to those thin meagre looks, and that Vertue of which she had so large a portion should be Triumph'd over by wickedness and Villainy. At parting the Countess shook him by the Hand and chearfully bid him not weep, this was the last day she could be miserable. *Philanthus* return'd to the Cell where he again put on his own Habit, and told the Hermit what he thought of
 the

the Innocency of the Countess. The next Morning at Nine of the Clock the Countess all in white, was brought from the Nunnery into a fair adjacent plain, in the middle of which was fixt a Stake, with a great deal of dryed Wood and other Combustible Matter. On a large Scaffold on one side was a Chair plac'd for the Countess, and at the other end a Tribunal Erected for those who were appointed to see the Execution perform'd, and if there should happen to be any Combatants, to determine any matter of difference that should arise. The Judges being Seated on the Tribunal and the Countess in the Chair, Proclamation was made, *that if any Person would Venture to Wage War in defence of the Countess de Montallo's Innocency*, Seignior Sabrino the Accuser was ready to Answer him at single Combat. Before this Proclamation was made, all the Drums, Trumpets, Clarions and Instruments of field Musick first sounded, & then the principal
of

of the Judges gave order for the first Proclamation, and so for the Second, when being ready to give the last Summons, at a distance appear'd a Champion who by the waving of his Sword, gave Notice what he intended, he was Mounted on a Milk white Courser in black Mourning Armour, his Beaver fast lock't down, his Device, the Sun Shining gloriously from a Cloud upon distressed Innocence, which was a Virgin habited all in white. As soon as this strange Champion was Enter'd the Lists, a Herald demanded of him *who he was that came thus Arm'd?* he told him, *he came to lose his Life or vindicate the Honour of the Countess of Montalto, who was unjustly accus'd by a Regue a Liar and a Vilain; and that he would prove him to be.* Upon this the Herald demanded of the Countess, *if she was willing to Venture her Life and Honour upon the Success of her Champion,* to which she answer'd, *yes, I pray God prosper him.* Immediately after upon the Sound

Sound of the Trumpets, the two Warriours set Spurs to their Horses, and in the first Career, the Ladies Champion had the worst, and lost one of his Stirrups, when recovering himself he redoubled that disadvantage upon his Enemy, having broke their Spears they fell to their Swords, when *Philanthus* lent him such a blow on the Helmet, that one half of it fell down upon his Shoulders upon which followed whole streams of Blood; At this the whole Cirque (which consisted of Thousands of Spectators) gave a loud Shout, *Sabrino* being Cut deep into the Skull, and having lost a great quantity of Blood, in the middle of the next Course fell headlong from his Horse. *Philanthus* leapt readily down and putting the point of his Sword to his Throat, bid him ask his Life, 'tis too late, says *Sabrino*, But I'll clear my Soul from all filthy Sin before I dye, Upon which a Confessor was call'd, to whom he publickly Confest his unjust Accusation
of

of the Countess, and the reason that put him upon such a Bloody Revenge, so long as he had Breath he call'd often upon her to forgive him, which was not long, for his Wound was past Cure, and in less then half an Hour he dyed. I shall forbear to mention the loud shouts and acclamations of the people, for the Countesses deliverance, and that her Innocency was clear'd in the Face of the whole World; In the midst of all this Joy and Triumph, *Philanthus* stole privately away without being known by any Person who he was, and came over to England, where he never discover'd the least Syllable of what he had done to any of her own Relations.

The Countess was now led back in Triumph, and Complemented with the Visits of all Persons of Quality, and Congratulations of all her Friends, when every one Enquir'd of her, this Gentlemans Name and Country who was her Champion, She told them, at the place of death she expected
none,

none, nor knew of any, that as he came from Heaven for ought She knew he was return'd thither again, for notwithstanding the strictest Enquiry She could make, she heard no account of him. A Courser was immediately dispatch'd with Letters to give the Count a Relation of this great News, who was so extreamly Transported with it, that being but lately recover'd from a dangerous Feaver, it threw him into a Relapse of which within few dayes he dyed. But before his death, in his Cooler fits he order'd his Secretary to write a most kind and passionate Letter to the Countess to rejoyce with her for her Miraculous preservation, which afterwards she receiv'd, he made his Will and left her all his whole Estate for Life, besides Jewels Plate and Money to a very great Value. Soon after his death she parted with all the Land to the next Heir, for a Valuable consideration in Money, and return'd to England after She had been five years and three Months absent. Philanthus went as other
Gentlemen

Gentlemen and Ladies did to give their Service and Welcom to Orithia, and Fortun'd to find her in the Dining Room all alone, who receiv'd him with all Respects, but upon discourse of the Letters extreamly blam'd his unkindness and degenerate spirit, that could value any thing to the World above the Honour and Life of a Lady for whom once he had some regard. Philanthus endeavor'd to Excuse himself from the great necessity and distress he was then under, that tho' when her Ladyship left England he was Master of a fair Estate, yet since by some extraordinary Losses he had receiv'd, and Charges in Law-Suits he was at this present reduc'd to down Right poverty and want. She told him she was heartily sorry for it, but that Fate and Chance ran through the whole World. Company coming in, Dinner was plac'd upon the Table, and when it was almost over, Philanthus put on the Ring and presented his Service to the Countess in a Glass of Wine, She presently saw the Ring and chang'd

Chang'd Celour, which was taken Notice of by my Lord her Brother, and all the Company, who ask'd if she was not well, at that she blush'd again, and said yes my Lord, indifferent, however they perceiv'd some sudden alteration which they could not Guess the reason of. After Dinner was done she stept to Philanthus, and taking him on one side, desir'd to know from whence he had that Ring. Madam, sayes he I had it from a Lady for whose sake I will never part with it. Sir, said she, I presume I know it, yes, Madam, you do so, and gave it to a Hermit on the Evening before you was to suffer. I, Madam, was that Hermit, and next day your, Champion. Upon which the Countess gave the whole Relation of it to the Company, and promised Philanthus in Gratitude to him, she would make him Master of her self and all her Fortune next Morning, which was accordingly done, and the Marriage Celebrated with all pomp and Solemnity.

Evadne having thus Finished her Relation, the whole Company bow'd their respects, and were all extreamly pleas'd with it, especially Melintus, who Styled it a most pleasant and divertive Story; and Philotas being next in turn, Melintus told him he remembred a Story he had formerly the happiness to hear him relate, which (if he mistook not) was the unhappy History of Leander and Clizia, and as it pleas'd then, if he would now Oblige the Company with a Recital of it, he question'd not but it would be to their intire Satisfaction, accordingly Philotas thus began.

Novel

NOVEL the Seventh.

By PHILOTAS.

THe vast Number of Candles, that in the Winter Quarter are hung out every Night, and serve as an Ornament to the streets of *London*, began to light those who walk late without Torches, when one of the most Famous Surgeons of that populous City was sent for in great haste, and his Assistance desir'd at a House not far distant from his own, where he was immediately conducted, and there found a very Handsom Young Gentleman, (whom the Company called *Leander*) very desperately wounded, and upon search found, he had received two dangerous pricks from a Sword; He heard those about him whispering that he had given himself those Wounds, so unexpectedly that none could divert the evil consequence of so bloody an Enterprize: The Surgeon would have applyed the first dressing to his Wounds,

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but

but *Leander* would not permit him, saying, that he did not deserve longer to live on the Earth, and desired therefore that death might put a period to his Life; This gave occasion for some of the Company to Entertain an opinion that he was somewhat distemper'd in mind, whilst the rest did really believe him to be distracted, which he perceiving did earnestly desire their silence, and he would give them a Recital of his Misfortunes, accordingly he began his discourse in this manner.

“ My Wife being some Months since gone
 “ to divert her self at a Country-House be-
 “ longing to some of her Kindred, I had
 “ the Misfortune to happen into the Com-
 “ pany of a Young Person, whose beauty
 “ might claim precedence o’er her whole
 “ Sex. The charming Features of her Face,
 “ and deluding witchcraft of her Tongue,
 “ had such a powerful Influence o’er my
 “ Spirits that my Heart was suddenly Fi-
 “ red with the wanton desires of an un-
 “ lawful passion and an amorous inclinati-
 “ on unwarily stole upon me.

“ Her Lodging being in a quarter of the
 “ City remote from mine, I thought I
 “ might easily bring her into an opinion
 that

“ that I was a Batchellor, which I Endeav-
 “ vor’d to perswade her to, as knowing
 “ such most acceptable to them, the quality
 “ of Husband in such case being no ways
 “ pleasing to them, by reason they cannot
 “ hope (if occasion should so require) to
 “ obtain them for their own ; I had wrought
 “ my self in a short time into her favour
 “ and good opinion, that all outward ap-
 “ pearances perswaded me that nothing was
 “ wanting on my behalf, but a good cou-
 “ rage and confidence to render me happy
 “ and contented, I resolv’d therefore vigo-
 “ rously to put the Lady to it, but though
 “ I made a good attaque, she made no worse
 “ a defence, and told me, *that unless it*
 “ *were in the way of Marriage, I must expect*
 “ *no favour from her.* I was surpriz’d at
 “ the resistance she made, whereby I learn’d
 “ that outward appearances are often de-
 “ ceitful, and that those Women which seem
 “ most complying by the manner of their
 “ carriage and conversation are quite other-
 “ wise then what we take them for, when
 “ they are press’d to any thing beyond the
 “ bounds of an honest Affection.

“ The resistance of that Lovely Maid who
 “ was called *Clitia*, did but the more inflame

“ me, but it also greatly perplex’d me, for
 “ (in short) I was Married to a Person of
 “ whom I had no reason to complain, and
 “ whose return from the Country I daily
 “ expected; All the protestations of Mar-
 “ riage which I made to this beautiful Maid
 “ avall’d me nothing, and all my Prayers
 “ and intreats stood me in little stead, nei-
 “ ther would the Finest arguments I could
 “ invent to perswade her to yield to my
 “ desires win any thing upon her, she still stood
 “ firm to her first design.

“ This Counterfeit modesty and Virtue
 “ charm’d me with the more love, which
 “ seem’d to me as the greatest Marks of the
 “ entire Affection and Good-will she bore
 “ me; not in the least perceiving that she
 “ Entertain’d a Gallant Named *Clitophon*,
 “ who was of Intelligence with her, to draw
 “ me into the snare of Matrimony with her,
 “ so that I must be the Husband, and he the
 “ Gallant who would continue his Pastime at
 “ my Cost.

Leander beginning to grow weak, by reason
 of the great Loss of Blood he had sustained,
 was Interrupted in this part of his Story,
 that care might be taken of his Wounds, but
 he would not suffer their endeavours, not-
 withstanding

wirhstanding whatsoever Entreaties they made him, or whatsoever Efforts they used to Cure him, even against his Will; All the Compliance they could obtain of him was, that he would suffer himself to be succour'd so soon as he had Finish'd his Discourse, but was sensible all their Endeavors would come too late, for he was certain that Death (which he so much desired) would quickly put a Period to his days, they were forced to grant his Demand, though not without some Reluctancy, and then he pursu'd his Discourse after the Manner following,

My Perplexity having continued some time, and not having yet Fixed upon any Resolution, I Received a Letter from my Wife, wherein she gave an Account what day she would Arrive at London. After the Reading of her Letter, I went to Clitia, and found her that day so Beautiful and Charming (in my Imagination) that forthwith there was Fram'd in my Mind this horrible Design, which I am about to Relate, and which Caused me to Promise Clitia, that within a short time I would Esponse her, I then took my leave, my Mind being Fixed upon the damnable Resolution I had Pitch'd upon before; So soon as I Arrived at my own Lodging I Resisted this Devilish Enterprize, and took up Resolutions quite

contrary to the former, but the next day making another visit to Clitia, my depraved mind reassumed its first wicked Sentiment? and I fully determined within my self, to go in disguise and Kill my Wife in her way home, which bloody Enterprize I had no sooner Executed and returned free from discovery, but I went immediately to her House who had first inspired my Evil Genius with the wicked Sentiments of so Horrid a Murder, but Oh! the admirable Justice of Heaven? I found her dead and was informed that she was with Child by the Gallant, who had hitherto conceal'd himself from my taking Notice of him, and that she had used violent means upon her Body to force an abortion, after that I had promised her Marriage, which precipitate and cruel procedure had been the cause of her Death.

Immediately my Crime returned into my remembrance and it presented it self with such Horror to my imagination, that I could not endure to think of so vile a wretch as my self, then it was that I Framed a design to Kill my self, which just now I have put in Execution. Now that you know my Crime (added he) I cannot believe you so cruel to bestow your care in preserving a Life, which within a short time would be forced from me by the Hangman.

In

In Finishing these words he was Seized with a great weaknes, and dyed in a short time after. The Company (being his Friends) desired the Surgeon not to discover any thing of the matter; and the Confession he had made of his Crimes did greatly surprize and astonish the whole Company.

The whole Company were extremely pleas'd with the Recital of this Tragical History by Philotas, which they Express'd by a grateful acknowledgement, but the Misfortune of Leander moved compassion in the minds of the Auditors, Theodosia then knowing it to be her place to conclude, declared to the Company that part of the Stories already Recited, had made an alteration in her mind, that she must of necessity pass by that she intended next, having so near affinity to the former, and proceed to

another, which she began in this manner.

NOVEL the Eighth.

By THEODOSIA.

IN the Late Reign of Queen *Mary*; *Baldwin* a Swedish Gentleman by Birth (being Younger Brother to the Connt *de Walbourg*) espoused an English Lady, and was on his return from *Camberbury* in the County of *Kent*, to his own House not far distant from an adjacent River; It was in the long days of Summer, when the greatest heats make the Shades to be most affected; His Man who carried his Male, and his two Footmen, being more thirsty than their Master, were stayed at a Tavern to drink and refresh themselves, whilst *Baldwin* went leisurely on dreaming, and arrived alone at the River side; as he stay'd there for his Men to pass over with him, there came a handsome Young Man reasonably well Clothed, who proffer'd

proffer'd to take the Bridle of his Horse, the comely aspect of this Youth caused him to commiserate his Fortune, when questioning him what he was, the Youth with a Voice able to inchant the Rocks; said, I am an Orphan having neither Father or Mother, my Country is the Northern part of *England* nigh to the borders of *Scotland*, forsaken by all there, and am going towards *Normandy*, to find out an Uncle of mine, Brother to my Mother; and see if he will take pity on me, or find me out some place whereby serving I may get my Living; Youth, said *Baldwin*, it is easy to be seen that you have not been brought up to serve, at leastwise in painful Offices, it is true, Reply'd he, if it had pleased God to have spared me my Father, who was an Honest Merchant, I should not be reduced to this misery, but Merchants are not known till they dye, his Shop was fair, and his Credit great, but at his death all failed, and his debts were found far greater then all he had; So that being destitute of all means, I must make a Vertue of necessity, and seek to eat my Bread by the Sweat of my Brow. *Baldwin*'s heart was mollified at this Youths Disaster, and he resolved to retain him in his Service, imagining that he had on his Forehead a certain Ray of Freedom and fidelity, weary with staying

staying for his Men, he enter'd the Foat with this Youth, who Named himself *Gervase*, *Baldwins* Habitation was from thence about three short English miles; wherein *Gervase* found himself but a bad Footman, yet on the way he entertain'd his new Master with such good discourse that the time seemed not long.

Being arrived home, and saluting his Wife, he said unto her, Madam, I bring to you a new Guest, whose good Countenance serves for Letters of Credence, I have destinated him to wait on our Son (this was a Child of some Nine or Ten years of Age,) his Lady looking on *Gervase* found him to be perfectly acceptable, and praised her Husbands judgement, for applying him so worthily, as to wait on their Son. *Vincent* (for that was the Childs Name) was in a short time so taken with the Conversation of *Gervase*, and *Gervase* betook himself with so much care and diligence to tend and serve him, that Father Mother and Son, were equally satisfied therewith, the whole Family taking extream delight in the modest behaviour, gentle disposition and charming Conversation of this Beautiful Young Man, which could not but Charm the most Savage Spirits.

But,

But, Alas ! Beauty that acceptable Gift of Heaven, as 'tis a pleasing illusion of the Sence, so 'tis a Snare to the Soul, it Tyrannically extendeth its power over the heart of *Aurelia*, *Baldwins* Lady, insomuch that Love and Honour are at strife which shall most predominate, the one striking her Soul with a cold fear, the other with a burning desire ; but all the efforts of honour were vain, Love usurping Sole Dominion over her heart ; When having made choice of one of her Maids (Named *Judith*) for her Confident, She made known to her with what Disease she was infected, and how she was forc'd to seek Remedy from the Serpent that had bit her, *Judith* promiseth her Mistress to assist her with the utmost of her endeavors, although her thoughts were quite contrary to what her Mouth uttered, for she was struck with the same Dart her self, however she thinking it a probable means to oblige *Gervase*, that he might no longer continue the disdain where-with he had hitherto repayed her Love, she declared to him the passion and affection of *Aurelia* towards him, *Gervase* who had divers times shewed unto *Judith* that those discourses were no ways pleasing to him, re-
jected

jected this also ; *Judith* finding she could not obtain Credence in his mind, Counselled her Mistress to speak her self, if she would be understood, this froward Youth having no Ears to her perswasions ; What Grief felt *Aurelia* to find she had in vain declared her self to this Maid, whose Answer was a sad presage of the small hopes she might have to bring *Gervase* to her desire, what new pains took she to pluck this Thorn out of her Soul, but at the first Sight of this fair Object, all these Endeavours vanish'd into Smoak, and new fires took possession of her Heart ; *Judith* had brought them together, and to give her Mistress more freedom, retired her self into another Chamber, *Aurelia* then talks to *Gervase* with Stuttering Language, and with anxious fears, like unto those of a Guilty Person before a Judge, she Labours to make him Susceptible of her Torment.

Fair *Gervase* is Amaz'd to find himself alone without a Witness, by a Woman which uttered unto him such Language, as he could not hear without Extream perplexity, the different Changes of his Colour, sufficiently witnessed by his Face the inward Resentments of his mind, his Eyes banded

to the Ground, his Silence, and his immovable Countenance gave *Aurelia* an Answer which was not pleasing; Her presents were Liberal, her promises large, her intreatyes unseemly, her Sighs Vehement, her tears in abundance, but these Winds and these Waters were as Storms against a Rock; *Gervase* appeared insensible like the Statue *Pigmalion* fell in Love withall; The heat of Love pierced by a bloody contempt, commonly turns into a furious Wrath, *Aurelia* was upon the point of this Change, when *Gervase* to conjure this Tempest, and cut out the Root of this Disease at its first breeding, resolves to Unmask the Counterfeit, and cause pity of himself in her, who Craved it of him. *Madam,* (said he, unbuttoning his Doublet) *behold these Breasts, and ask no Answer, except you will see me dye at your Feet with shame;* Men are not better known by the Beard than Women by their Breasts; This sight left no manner of doubt in the Soul of *Aurelia*, but that *Gervase* was a Woman, and as it is said, that Thunder falling upon a Serpent, in lieu of taking away life, doth but take away his Venom, so this sudden Clap rooting out of this Womans Heart all the poyson of her
bad

bad desires, took not away her Love to Gervase, but left it there with pity, and this pity bred a desire to know the fortune of this Man-Maid, that she might seek to yield her some Assistance in her Disaster, and with this intent said, since Heaven hath made me Fortunate by this knowledge, and changed the Rock whereon I would have made Shipwrack, into a Haven of safety for mine Honour, I do promise you for your freeness towards me, to conceal your Sex as long as you please, and if you desire any help, you may as freely discover the cause of your being in this State, assuring you that you shall find in me all the Assistance which you can Expect from a Woman desirous of the preservation both of your Honour and of your Person.

Madam, Replyed Gervase, mischiefs are so contagious, that the very Recital of them doth ever breed some Alteration, even in the calmest Spirits: Let me therefore Grope under the burthen of my Misfortunes, and suffer not your Felicity to be troubled by the Recital of them; Rest contented to take Pity on a Poor Maid, who puts her Honour and her Life into your Protection: This Evasion did but whet in Aurelia that Curiosity so Natural in Women

men, and gave her occasion to reply thus,
 as Physicians heal no Diseases, but those
 they know, so likewise cannot I assist you
 in your Misfortunes, if you discover not un-
 to me the cause thereof, to the End that
 knowing who you are, and in what manner
 you came to be in this disguise, I may be-
 have my self towards you, as I ought, and
 since there is a Remedy for all things but
 Death, strive to re-establish your self in the
 degree from whence Fortune it seems hath
 made you fall, for you have a Ray of No-
 bility on your Brow shines through the
 Clouds of your present Condition, and
 makes it appear even to the weakest un-
 derstanding, that you have not been bred
 after a common manner ; *Madam* Replied
Gervase, my woes are past Recovery, since they
 proceed from a Death, and therefore being my mi-
 series ought to be put among incurable Maladies,
 let me intreat you to cast away that Needless
 Care which you take to Cure me, and let me
 pass away under your Protection my small re-
 mainder of Life, as well I feel that Sorrow and
 Grief for my Fault do undermine it by degrees,
 and will not let me long Survive him, without
 whom the Fairest days are to me as darkest,
 and like a Lingeri^{ng} Death, in saying this,
Gervase

Gervase let fall from his Eyes, tears resembling those Drops of Rain which the ardent Heat of the Sun doth Squeeze out in the fairest days of Summer ; but so far was *Anrelia's* curious desire from being quenched, that this Water resembled that which Smiths put on their Cinders, whereby the Fire is increased and not put out ; Therefore extraordinarily pressing *Gervase* to disclose unto her his Adventures, he was constrained to satisfy her, when having dry'd his Eyes, and obtain'd a Truce from his Sighs, he began in this manner.

I am Daughter to a Cambridge-shire Gentleman, of the Ancient order of Knight-hood, he hath divers Children, and I am the Second of his Daughters, and the cause of this dishonour, and trouble of his House, Baptisme Named me, Sophronia, which was the Name of my Mother who dyed when I was but Six Years of Age ; When my Sister and my self were grown up to some years of Maturity, Love assailed us and made a Conquest o're our Hearts,

My Eldest Sister loved a Young Gentleman whom she Wedded not ; But to obey the Will of our Father She Wedded an Old Gentleman whom she never affected : She made me such strange Complaints of being Tyed to a Man she
loved

loved not, that it seemed she endured the Torment which that Tyrant inflicted, who fastened dead Bodies to the Living, till they dyed in this Cruel languishing manner; Nay, she described to me, her Torment to be equal unto that which is suffered in Hell. And indeed such may one call a Marriage wherein the parties do neither agree in the Wills of the Heart, nor the delights of the Body, this misery which I considered in her, made me resolve to avoid the like, how dear soever it cost me. But, Alas! to shun one Gulf, I cast my self into another, and I may say, if my Sisters Marriage were a Hell, the Furies carried the Torches at mine, and conducted me to a Disaster worse than Hell.

Valerius a Young Gentleman, but a Younger Brother of our Neighbourhood, had my first, and shall have my last affection: He was placed at the University to Study the Law, and Cambridge not being many miles distant from my Fathers House he made me frequent Visits, and we lived some years in so perfect a Correspondence; That if my Father would have Matched us together, the Elysian Fields could never have equalled our Felicity. But because this Young Man could not make so large a Joynture as he required, my Father would never consent to our Union: But I fearing a Lot like my Sisters,

would

would needs Spin my destinies with my own Hands, and so have I fashioned the Cord which hath drag'd me to the misfortune wherein I am, Valerius ever behaved himself towards me with a very incomparable modesty, so that it was not so much by his Solicitation, as by my own proper inclination, that we made reciprocal promises of Marriage, accompanied with so many Solemn Oathes, and such horrible Execrations against the party that should violate the same, that if I had had but the least thought of breaking the same, I should not have believed Heaven sufficiently furnished with Thunders to strike me according to my desert. After some time we Consummated our Clandestine Marriage, and resolved whensoever I should find my self loaden with the Fruits of Lucina, to take Flight with my Husband rather than undergo the Thunder of my Fathers anger.

This happened not but a more terrible Tempest overtook us, which brought me to the wrack wherein you see me, Sir G--- a Yorkshire Knight who had been in Marriage but Three years, and was then lately become a Widower being about Thirty five years of Age, happened to Lodge at my Fathers in his Journey to London being an acquaintance of my Fathers formerly in his Travels, he found I knew not what in my Face that
 liked

liked him, he was a Match so advantageous, that to see me, to desire me in Marriage of my Father, and obtain me, were all such sudden Blows, that I had neither time to foresee them, nor to shield my self from them. My Father (without consulting my will) told me that he had disposed of me to Sir G--- and that I must dispose my self to receive him for my Husband in some few days, if a Thunderbolt had fallen at my Heels I could not have been more astonished; I made no Answer to my Father for what could I have said that would have pleased him, and oppose Cold Excuses to his resolutions, had been of no more Effect than Bullets of Snow against the Sun-Beams, I resolved suddenly to make Effects speak, and that was all that I could in so pressing a necessity, my Father took my Silence for consent.

Next day my amorous Widower came to see me, and after the first Complements of a first interview, he would have offered me his Service, under the Allowance (said he) of my Father, my Father (said I) hath not willed me to receive your Service, but your Commands, obligeing me to behold you as a Master, this proceeding is to be admired thus to give away free Persons without their own consent, I am born his Daughter, and not his Slave: However I declare to you
that

that I belong to a greater Master, having made a Vow to him that made Heaven and Earth, never to be any Bodie but his : If it had pleased you to have seen me before you had spoke to my Father, I had saved you the Labour of asking a thing which you cannot Lawfully get nor possess without Sacrilege : Never did I behold a Man more Amaz'd than he, when by this free declaration he saw his hopes undermined to the very Foundation, he feared God, and therefore I could not oppose any thing of more force to stay his desires, for Answer I had none other, but that he was sorry to have been trouble some to my designs, yet he believed a Dispensation might Remedy all this, if I would give Ear thereto, I told him a dispensation presupposed some reasonable cause, and that I saw no necessity to re-oke a Vow which I had made without necessity. He sees my Father, and communicates my Answer to him : Who instantly falls into anger, and from thence into injurious words and Threats. He had once gotten knowledge of my affection to Valerius, and had interdicted me the commerce thereof, and now presently believes. That in despite of that, I had made this Vow, and (such is the Tyranny of Paternal Authority) he imagined that I could not Vow without his consent, he immediately consults a Civillian, who gave him

him to understand that nothing was more easy, than to get a Dispensation of this Kow, he who was no less desirous to have Sir G---- for his Son in Law, than Sir G.---- to have me for his Wife, gets a Dispensation, and all preparations being made for our publick betrothing, and the Articles signed between Sir G.----and my Father, what should I have done? declare my Clandestine marriage Consummated with Valerius, no, I had not Brags enough in my Face, to undergo so much shame, besides I should have Exposed my Husbands Life to manifest danger; The Council we took was to retire disguised from the Country to London, and from thence to France, he had for some time born Armes under a Prince of the house of Austria in the Wars betwixt the French and the Spaniards, in which he always behaved himself with that Skill and Valour that he had gain'd acquaintance with the most Noted Officers of the Army, and there we thought we might Live in Shelter, and in Case of pursuit that we might Sail from thence into Holland and hide our selves from the fury of my Father, he Clothed me in Mans Apparell as you see, and in this manner we left Cambridgeshire, passing through London, we were on our journey towards Dover, where we design'd to take Shipping for France.

But Fortune my Capital Enemy, to end on me the last Stroak of her Vengeance, permitted that as we crost a Forrest, we were set upon by four Theives, who had given Valerius two Wounds before he could put himself in a Posture of defence, as soon as he had drawn his Sword he ran him through who had first Wounded him, the others to revenge the Death of their Fellow made an end of him presently, affrighted as I was and dazled with the Glittering of so many Swords, I fled into the Thick of the Wood, where turning my Horse loose I remained till midnight with dolours of fears; at last under the Moons pail Light, I began to seek what I feared to meet with; alas, I found Valerius naked (for these Theives had taken away his very Shirt, and pierced him through in so many places, that I believe their Rage extended to give him many thrusts after his Death, at his Feet lay also their Fellow stretch'd along Naked, whose Face they had mangled that he might not be Known, I was so overcome with sorrow, that had it not been for a secret fear of Eternal Damnation which Seized my Soul, I had a Thousand times struck a Knife into my Heart, I past the rest of the Night in Griefs which cannot be imagined, and in troubles unconceivable, for me to return to my Friends after so Gross a fault, was a thing
wher came

whereunto I could not resolve, nor on which side to turn, in a Countrey altogether unknown to me; At last I resolved to give my self over unto Divine Providence, and to tend towards those in France, whereof my Husband had so much told me; And after I had wet him with tears, I fled from this infamous Wood for fear of being apprehended as Guilty, having passed along till I had lost Sight of the Forrest, I hapned I know not how to be at the River, when my Master arrived there to pass, I help'd him down from his Horse, and afterwards to get up again when we were on the other side, he asked me who I was, I made him believe what I would to cover my true disgrace, under a feigned History, he took me to serve your Son, a place proportionable to my strength, and wherein I intended to expect with patience how God would dispose of me, but you would needs with pity take some part in my pain, but I humbly intreat you, Madam, let that pity be to keep close that Secret which you have Commanded me to discover to you, and to be careful in preserving that small remainder of Honour in this miserable Creature whom Excessive, but Lawful Love of a Husband hath born into extremities whereunto you see her now reduced; Gervase Ended in this manner the Recital of her

Fortune, falling down on her Knees before *Aurelia*, who in Compassion mingled her tears with the tears of this disconsolate Woman, and Kissing and Embracing her, promised never to forsake her, and to have the same care of her as if she were her own Daughter.

After that time reason took place in the affection of *Aurelia*, from whence it had been drawn by passion, her actions were better ordered, her flame Sweeter and more Moderate; it was not so with *Judith* whose passion augmented daily by the Shunnings, Refusals, and contempt of *Gervase*, which this Foolish Wench attributed unto the pride which she thought he took in the Enjoyment of his Mistress, and though *Aurelia* (without discovering the Secret of *Gervase*) assured her that her Love was converted into Friendship, and *Gervase* was the most Chast and Vertuous Youth in the World, this Maid heated by another Fire, imagined that *Aurelia* held this discourse, but to cover her Game, whilst she possessed her *Adonis*, and truly *Judith's* Suspicions were not without some shew or likelyhood of Ground, for *Aurelia* now beholding *Gervase* but as a Woman, used so much freedom with him,
and

and made him come into her Chamber at such Suspitions Hours, that the least Credulous would have been tempted to take it ill; and this was that put *Judith* into a desperate jealousy, which peevish Humour made her do a base, and Treacherous Act, that caused a Tragical Event, and a Misfortune which gave birth unto a prosperity, and thus it was: After she saw that all her Solicitations to fair *Gervase* were lost Labours, and imagining that the Refusals were disdain, being stung with anger at these imaginary contempts, she resolved seeing she could not content her Love, to satisfy her Revenge, and undo her Rival Mistress, together with him that would not correspond unto her affections, it was by an Advertisement she gave her Master of the bad dealings of *Aurelia* and *Gervase*, whereof she shewed such apparent Colours, that *Baldwin* nothing doubted but that he was dishonoured by his Wife.

Immediately then how to Revenge it at full, he makes shew of lying forth, and by the help of *Judith* hides himself in a Closet near *Aurelia's* Bed-Chamber, this Lady who took extream delight in *Gervase*, and in making him relate the particularities of his House and Country, of his Love and Fortune,

failed not to make him come at Night, when she would put him into his discourse, and fall a sleep thereon, but whilst she is in Bed and *Gervase* sitting at her Beds-Head talking to her, *Baldwin* is preparing Fire and Sword to revenge the Injury, which he believes to be but too Apparent, he starts forth of his Ambuscado, and comes with his Pistol in Hand, crying with full Mouth, *Ha? Accursed Woman now is the time that thou shalt Wash my Spotted Honour with thy Blood, and that both your Self and your Adulterer shall pay interest for the wrongs you have done me, and without hearing any Answer shoots of his Pistol, thinking to dash out *Aurelia's* brains, but she turning her Head aside, the shot went into the Feathers without doing any other Effect, only that it burned the Cheek of this poor Lady, who in this trouble mis-doubted the cause of her Husbands Wrath, but had no more leisure than to cry out, O Sir, *Gervase is a Woman*, wherein *Baldwin* whose Sword was already drawn to end therewith what the Fire had spared, as if a flash of Lightning had dazzled his eyes, stood in Suspence at these words, when *Gervase* more dead than Alive, cast her self at his feet, and with the discovery of her Breasts assured*

assured him that *Aurelia's* Words were but too true; And presently to clear his understanding, of so many confusions wherewith his Soul was troubled, *Gervase* though trembling, related to him the whole History, as you have heard of her Misfortune, which drew tears from the Eyes of *Baldwin*, and made him infinitely repent what he had done; mean time Remedies were applyed to the burn on *Aurelia's* face which beside the pain threatned her with a great deformity, but whether it were the inflammation that redoubled, or through the extream terrour which she had felt in hearing a Pistol Thunder at her Ear, and see her self near losing her Life, she fell into a strong *Fever*, which in three days lay'd her in her Grave; *Baldwin* lamented much for her, both because he truly Loved her, and for that he saw himself to be the cause of her death, he had almost discharged the burthen of his Wrath on *Judith* and Sacrificed her to the Manes of her Mistress, but when he knew that she her self had been deceived, and that the Conjectures of the Evil had been so strong, he was contented only to discharge her his House.

Mean time *Gervase* having changed her Habit and being become *Sophronia*, appeared

so fair in the Eyes of *Baldwin*, that Love being Enter'd into his Soul, by the two Gates of Beauty and pity, he resolv'd to Marry her as being a Gentlewoman of good descent, and the Widow of a Gentleman; *Sophronia* perceiving her Fortane to be desperate if she with open Armes received not this occasional proffer, immediately consented to *Baldwin's* proposition by a Solemn Marriage; and since having advice that *Sophronia's* Father was dead: *Baldwin* had that part of the inheritance that fell to her thereby, which amounted to as good a portion as he could have had with a Wife chosen out of his own Country.

That *Sophronia's* Misfortune was by Divine Providence changed into a good Fortune, and that moment of time intended for her Death, was to her a beginning of a Happier Life, it may be that the patience which she shewed in that extream adversity, for the loss of *Valerius*, and her Wise Carriage and behaviour in the Government of *Baldwin's* Son, brought her to this felicity not without great wonder to little *Vincent*, who saw his Tutor in a short time changed to his Mother in Law.

As Theodosia had concluded her Story, in came Count Melintus his Uncle and some other Persons of Honour from Court to give him a Visit upon which the Company broke up Melintus paying his more particular thanks to Theodosia for her Delightful Story, which was Seconded by all the Gentlemen and Ladies, and as they took leave Melintus told the Company he was in Arrears himself, but must beg Pardon till their next Meeting, when he did not question but he should discharge himself to their Satisfaction.

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